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W e e k l y

Vol. 6 No. 26 Tuesday 17th August 2010

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JOHN THORNLEY**

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SCOREBOARD

TABLE

		P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1	Perth Glory	2	1	1	0	5	3	2	4
2	North Qld Fury	2	1	1	0	5	4	1	4
3	CC Mariners	2	1	1	0	2	1	1	4
4	Gold Coast United	2	0	2	0	3	3	0	2
5	Adelaide United	2	0	2	0	1	1	0	2
6	Newcastle Jets	2	0	2	0	1	1	0	2
7	Wellington Phoenix	1	0	1	0	3	3	0	1
8	Brisbane Roar	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
9	Sydney FC	2	0	1	1	4	5	-1	1
10	Melbourne Heart	2	0	1	1	1	2	-1	1
11	Melbourne Victory	2	0	1	1	3	5	-2	1

WEEKEND RESULTS

Wellington Phoenix 3
(Paul IFILL 6', Chris GREEN-ACRE 37'/55')

Gold Coast United 3
(Shane SMELTZ 36'/74', Jason CULINA 86')

Newcastle Jets 1
(Jeremy BROCKIE 60')

Melbourne Heart 1
(Ben KANTAROVSKI 79' (OG))

North Qld Fury 2
(Chris GROSSMAN 64', Dylon DAAL 83')

Sydney FC 1
(Scott JAMIESON 82')

Melbourne Victory 0
Perth Glory 2
(Jamie HARNWELL 23', Mile STERJOVSKI 49')

Central CMariners 1
(Matt SIMON 84')

Adelaide United 1
(Iain FYFE 45'+1)

TOP GOAL SCORERS

2 - Chris GREENACRE, Chris GROSSMAN, Shane SMELTZ, Mile STERJOVSKI

1 - Jeremy BROCKIE, Alex BROSQUE, Leigh BROXHAM, Billy CELESKI, Shannon COLE, Jason CULINA, Dylon DAAL, Mate DUGANDZIC, Iain FYFE, Jamie HARNWELL, Paul IFILL, Scott JAMIESON, Branko JELIC, Terry MCFLYNN, Scott NEVILLE, Chris PAYNE, Matt SIMON, Alex WILKINSON, David WILLIAMS

NEXT WEEK

Week 3	FIXTURE	VENUE	LOCAL	AEST
Fri, 20 Aug 2010	Adelaide United vs. Melbourne Heart	Hindmarsh Stadium	7:30pm	8:00pm
Sat, 21 Aug 2010	Perth Glory vs. Newcastle Jets	nib Stadium	3:15pm	5:15pm
Sat, 21 Aug 2010	Brisbane Roar vs. Sydney FC	Suncorp Stadium	7:30pm	7:30pm
Sun, 22 Aug 2010	Wellington Phoenix vs. Central Coast Mariners	Westpac Stadium	5:00pm	1:00pm
Sun, 22 Aug 2010	Melbourne Victory vs. North Queensland Fury	AAMI Park	3:00pm	3:00pm
Weekend Break	Gold Coast United			

Round 03

JOHN CLARK'S KISS OF DEATH



Round 3 kicks off on Friday night with the Heart taking on Adelaide in a battle which will see the leagues two Dutch managers face off for the first time. Rini Coolen will be encouraged by the Reds first half against the Mariners in which they lead thanks to a neat finish by defender Iain Fyfe. The second half was a completely different story however, with the Mariners evening up the ledger late in the game and having a penalty appeal turned down in the final seconds leaving the points shared. The Heart seem to be taking a while to acclimatise to John Van't Schip's high possession game style and struggled to create any meaningful chances against the Jets until Ben Kantarovski's disastrous own goal handed the away team a share of the points. I think that it's only a matter of time before the Heart's star studded line up click into gear, but Adelaide are a tough nut to crack and I see the honours being shared in this one.

Prediction
Adelaide 1-1 Melbourne Heart



Perth will hope to continue their recent good record over the Jets when the two sides meet at Members Equity Stadium on Saturday. The Glory won all three of the matches between the two sides last season including a thumping 4-0 victory in Round 21. On that occasion it was Jamie Harnwell starring with a brace and last week it was that same man giving the Glory an early lead after toe poking a Robbie Fowler corner home. Mile Sterjovski then secured the three points with a well struck left foot shot into the corner. Branko Culina will be happy with how the Jets played but will be disappointed they weren't able to convert their glut of chances in Friday's 1-1 draw with the Melbourne Heart. The Jets have absolute quality in their front half with Ali Abbas, Michael Bridges and Labinot Haliti all capable of tearing A-League defences apart. I think this game will be a fantastic spectacle but the Glory are hard to beat at home and I expect them to just nick this one.

Prediction
Perth 3-2 Newcastle



Sydney FC head to Brisbane this weekend, still winless after two rounds of the A-League season. It has been a rough start to their title defence after letting the Victory snatch a point in the first game they left North Queensland empty handed after a tidy finish by Dylon Daal. The Roar had the weekend off but showed enough in their first game against the Gold Coast to suggest they will be competitive this year. In their two meetings at Suncorp Stadium last year it was the Roar winning both games 1-0, however the goal scorer on both of those occasions, Sergio Van Dijk, now plies his trade in Adelaide. I expect Sydney to bounce back strongly from last weeks defeat, however I was really impressed with the Roar in their first game and I think they will be able to take something from this match.

Prediction
Brisbane 1-1 Sydney



The Phoenix will be looking to extend their unbeaten run at Westpac Stadium to 21 games when Graham Arnold's Central Coast visits on Sunday. Wellington was fantastic going forward in tough conditions against the Gold Coast. However, Ricki Herbert will be less than impressed with some of the defending that allowed the Gold Coast to score three goals and spurn multiple other chances, but this may be more of an indictment on the weather rather than the Phoenix's usual sturdy defence. The Central Coast is still adapting to Graham Arnold's style of play, but signs were good in the second half against Adelaide. The Mariners created multiple chances and with Patricio Perez still to return there is a lot of upside to this squad. In their three meetings last year the Phoenix were able to pick up 7 points, thanks mainly to four goals to Paul Ifill and with Jade North returning from international duty to further sure up the defence I see that impressive home record continuing.

Prediction
Wellington 3-0 Central Coast



The Phoenix will be looking to extend their unbeaten run at Westpac Stadium to 21 games when Graham Arnold's Central Coast visits on Sunday. Wellington was fantastic going forward in tough conditions against the Gold Coast. However, Ricki Herbert will be less than impressed with some of the defending that allowed the Gold Coast to score three goals and spurn multiple other chances, but this may be more of an indictment on the weather rather than the Phoenix's usual sturdy defence. The Central Coast is still adapting to Graham Arnold's style of play, but signs were good in the second half against Adelaide. The Mariners created multiple chances and with Patricio Perez still to return there is a lot of upside to this squad. In their three meetings last year the Phoenix were able to pick up 7 points, thanks mainly to four goals to Paul Ifill and with Jade North returning from international duty to further sure up the defence I see that impressive home record continuing.

Prediction
Wellington 3-0 Central Coast



this week's line-up >>>

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goal!
Weekly

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The Guts, The Glory and The Fury of it all

By Con Stamocostas

So what did we learn from round two of the A League? The first thing is that Sydney FC took last week's seven minute brainfart where they conceded three goals against Melbourne Victory and turned it into a 90 minute feature losing 2-1 to everyone's tip for the Wooden Koutala (spoon in Greek) (with thanks to Super JT for that one).

The second lesson we have not learnt is that some teams have recruited well providing their team with balance and depth. It's only two rounds in but to me it looks like Perth Glory, North Queensland Fury, Newcastle Jets and Wellington Phoenix can give themselves a pat on the back for providing opportunities to young players and seemingly getting the mixture between youth and experience right.

Poor Recruiting

For me Sydney FC and Melbourne Victory get a big fail in terms of their recruiting this season. If Sydney FC was a girl I'd call her performance against the Fury mingin. Is that Mark Bridge that good? Is Sydney FC really dumb for offloading Chris Payne, Adam Casey and to a lesser extent Iain Ramsey and not replacing them with anyone? The answer is yes to both. Especially after seeing Payne who had some harsh words in the lead up to the game set up the Fury's two goals to give them an excellent first win of the season. Sydney FC must be banging their heads against a wall. They apparently have looked at 80 strikers when they had two in their squad already!

Let's not even mention the perennial possession loser of the A League Hayden Foxe. I know he has had a wretched run of injuries but he looks like Benjamin Button and not the young version.

More Heart less Pun

What can you say about Melbourne Heart? That Dutch style is so great to watch, pass upon pass upon pass with no finished product. The A League's new boys have more experienced professionals in their line up than a distinguished brothel and they still can't score! Poor Josip Skoko is injured, Rutger Worm's agent is a genius and Simon Colosimo and Michael Beauchamp look shaky at the back. I'm sure they will get better, their coach and the players in their squad are two good.

The Jets were on their way to well deserved 1-0 victory but unfortunately one of my favourite young players of the A League Ben Kantarovski scored a screamer of an own goal. I felt so sorry for the Jets they really deserved to win that game after being in control and creating the most chances. The Jets have an excellent blend of youth and experience in their squad. If they can stay fit the young players of the ilk of Marko Jesic, Ben Kantarovski, and Jeremy Brockie look like they have promising season ahead of them and with Michael Bridges and Ljubo Milicevic providing plenty of experience, I tip the Jets to be up near the top.

And special congratulations must go to the guys that dig up the Newcastle Jets pitch prior to every A League game; it really



Round 2 HAL action between the Mariners and Adelaide United, as Eugene Galekovic denies Oliver Bozanic
PHOTO: KAREN DOUGLAS

ally is excellent ground work. Not only does it make football almost impossible to play on but the sight of Rugby League sponsors painted over in that dodgy paint; it makes for a wonderful work of art. Groundsmen at Highbury and Old Trafford would be so jealous.
Monsoon Madness

Another match of note during round two was the first game played on Friday night between Wellington Phoenix and Gold Coast United. That they managed to produce a 3-3 all draw in monsoon conditions was a testament to the players. It was Wellington's first game of the season after last week's bye and don't they look strong again this season?

I think the Nix are really growing as a club. Who can say they have an undefeat-

ed World Cup coach and players in their squad? Not many if any, hey bro! Paul Ifill again showed his class and I'm a big fan of Leo Bertos. Congrats on the World Cup players and the coach Ricki Herbert on staying, as I'm sure they fielded heaps offers after their World Cup Jaunt.

I'm being quiet on the Gold Coast and Mariners front this season, it's not a boycott just that I'm finding the other teams more interesting.

So all in all well done to the North Queensland Fury and Newcastle Jets for having the balls to play young players and booooo Sydney FC And Melbourne Heart for playing old farts and hopeless imports.
Did You Know 135 Aussies play Overseas?

Damian Duvies does a monthly update on all the Aussies Abroad that you can find on Half Time Heroes. <http://halftimeheroes.com.au/aussies-abroad/players/>

And taking a look at the 135 Aussies playing overseas I see a lot of young players. Of the 135 Aussies abroad, 69 players are under 23 years old and 32 players are under 20 years of age. Some of the young Aussies are playing in clubs like Aston Villa, Bayern Munich, Liverpool, Valencia, Panathinaikos, and Manchester United just to name a few.

After that Socceroos showing in Slovenia last week let's hope some of these young players can break through into their respective clubs because we are going to need them.

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WELLINGTON PHOENIX



3

GOLD COAST UNITED



3

Match Details

WELLINGTON PHOENIX 3 (Ifill 6', Greenacre 37'/55')
GOLD COAST UNITED 3 (Smeltz 36'/74', Culina 87')
HT: 2-1
Referee: Peter O'Leary
Westpac Stadium, Wellington
Crowd: 8398

Wellington Phoenix:

1. Mark PASTON [gk], 2. Manny MUSCAT, 3. Tony LOCHHEAD, 6. Tim BROWN, 7. Leo BERTOS (11. DANIEL 84'), 8. Paul IFILL, 9. Chris GREENACRE, 17. Vince LIA, 18. Ben SIGMUND, 22. Andrew DURANTE (c), 23. Dylan MACALLISTER (13. Troy HEARFIELD 72').
Unused subs: 30. Jonathan GOULD [gk], 10. Oscar Roberto CORNEJO.
Yellow cards: Bertos 22', Durante 48', Sigmund 80'.
Red cards: None.

Gold Coast United:

1. Glen MOSS [gk], 3. Michael THWAITE, 6. Dino DJULBIC, 7. Zenon CARAVELLA, 8. ANDERSON (15. Tahj MINNIECON 73'), 9. Shane SMELTZ, 10. Jason CULINA (c), 13. Bas VAN DEN BRINK (5. ROBSON 63'), 14. Joel PORTER, 16. Kristian REES (2. Steve PANTELIDIS 66'), 18. James BROWN.
Unused subs: 20. Scott HIGGINS [gk].
Yellow cards: Djulbic 18', Thwaite 55', Minniecon 90+2'.
Red cards: None.

WATER-POLO IN WELLINGTON

By John Mitchell

IT RAINED goals at Westpac Stadium on Friday night as the Wellington Phoenix opened their Hyundai A-League 2010/11 campaign with a 3-3 draw against Gold Coast United in wet and difficult playing conditions.

Played in front of an 8398-strong crowd, the weather could not dampen the spirits of the home side for much of the match, but the visitors did with an 87th-minute equaliser after the Phoenix had held a 3-1 lead 10 minutes into the second half.

The Phoenix had to work hard for their one competition point, earned on the back of a dogged team effort spearheaded by a Chris Greenacre brace and a Paul Ifill special.

The Phoenix got off to a perfect start in the sixth minute when, from a Leo Bertos cross, Ifill controlled the ball at the top of the penalty box before sending a left-foot strike past Gold Coast goalkeeper Glen Moss.

Gold Coast's Zenon Caravella almost levelled before the hometown fans resumed their seats - his right-foot drive from distance hitting Phoenix goalkeeper Mark Paston's left-hand post.

The persistent rain began making a mark midway through the first half as the ball either held up or skidded on and the players struggled to retain their feet. Gold Coast defender Dino Djulbic was yellow carded for deliberate handball in the 17th minute and moments later Paston congratulated by teammates for getting a hand to deflect a strike on goal from the visitors.

The Gold Coast deserved their equaliser in the 36th minute when former hometown hero Shane Smeltz headed home from a perfectly weighted Jason Culina freekick. But their celebrations barely lasted a minute as the Phoenix regained the lead courtesy of Greenacre, who tapped home from close range. From a corner the ball ricocheted off players before finding Tim Brown's head inside the six-yard box and then Greenacre's boot.

Joel Porter missed a golden chance to equalise for the visitors early in the second stanza when he rounded Paston but delayed his shot into an empty net long enough for Ben Sigmund to clear to safety.

The Phoenix took control of the match in the 55th minute when Greenacre balanced beautifully to volley home from close range after latching on to a deflection from Dylan Macallister following a quickly taken free kick.

Paston was on hand on the hour to combine with his left post, the conditions and then a desperate parry while on the ground for Smeltz to be twice denied.

However, Smeltz bagged his brace with 16 minutes remaining when he slotted home after a penetrating run by Culina into the Phoenix penalty area.

Greenacre, with a deflected header on goal, and Ifill, with a strike across the face of the goal, came close to securing the win before Gold Coast pressed again and equalised in the 87th minute through a pinpoint Culina header.

The Phoenix's next game is against the Central Coast Mariners at Westpac Stadium on Sunday, August 22.

TOP: Joel Porter slides in the big wet as Leo Bertos tries to stay on his feet. PHOTO: WPFC

BOTTOM: Jason Culina came to the Gold Coast's rescue and headed home a late equaliser to share the spoils after being 3-1 down. PHOTO: WPFC



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NEWCASTLE JETS



1

MELBOURNE HEART



1

Match Details:

Newcastle Jets 1 (Jeremy BROCKIE 60')

Melbourne Heart 1

(Ben KANTAROVSKI 79' (OG))

Friday, 13 August, 2010

EnergyAustralia Stadium, Newcastle

Referee: Ryan Shepherd

Assistant referees: Ryan Gallagher and

Rod Allen

Fourth Official: Kurt Ams

Crowd: 8,735

Newcastle Jets line-up: 1. Ben KENNEDY (gk), 3. Adam D'APUZZO, 4. Nikolai TOPOR-STANLEY, 5. Ljubo MILICEVIC, 6. Ben KANTAROVSKI, 7. Kasey WEHRMAN (11. Tarek ELRICH 84'), 8. Michael BRIDGES (c), 10. Ruben ZADKOVICH, 16. Jeremy BROCKIE (14. Labiot HALITI 74'), 18. Marko JESIC, 19. Ali ABASS (12. Jobe WHEELHOUSE 64')

Substitutes not used: 30. Paul HENDERSON (gk)

Yellow cards: Ali ABASS 45', Michael BRIDGES 50', Ben KANTAROVSKI 66'

Red cards: Nil

Melbourne Heart line-up: 1. Clint BOLTON, 2. Michael MARRONE, 4. Simon COLOSIMO, 5. Michael BEAUCHAMP, 6. Matt THOMPSON, 7. Rutger WORM, 9. Gerald SIBON, 11. Alex TERRA, 20. Josip SKOKO (10. Wayne SHROJ 19'), 22. Nicholas KALMAR (3. Brendan HAMIL 61'), 23. Dean HEFFERNAN (19. Eli BABALU 77')

Substitutes not used: 12. Peter ZOIS

Yellow cards: Nil

Red cards: Nil

JETS HELP HEART OFF THE MARK

By Elizabeth Forden

New boys Melbourne Heart managed to pick up their first point of the season at Energy Australia Stadium against Newcastle Jets on Friday night.

The Jets looked hopeful for a win after a nil all draw with Adelaide United last week and were looking good after going ahead with a well taken goal from Jeremy Brockie, but in the 79th minute Melbourne drew level with a freak Ben Kantarovski own goal.

Both teams looked shaky early on but the Jets settled into the game quicker. Nikoli Topor-Stanley managed to overcome injury and take his place at the heart of defence alongside Vice Captain Ljubo Milicevic.

While heart looked good, they had many misjudged passes, denying them opportunities further up the field.

After Josip Skoko's exit with a hamstring injury midway through the first half, Kantarovski and Kasey Wehrman began to dominate possession in the midfield and could have had a lead in the 19th minute but Heart keeper Clint Bolton denied Marko Jesic with a low diving save to his left.

Newcastle continued to create opportunities but could have found themselves a goal down if it wasn't for an acrobatic tip-over by Ben Kennedy from a Nick Kalmar header.

Captain Michael Bridges, Ali Abbas, Jesic and Brockie looked dangerous in the first half but were unlucky and couldn't manage to beat Bolton who looked solid in goals.

Melbourne survived the pressure from Newcastle and managed to fight their way back into the game but then both teams found chances hard to come by and they went in level at the half time break.

The second half saw Melbourne come out looking stronger and more determined and while Alex Terra and Gerald Sibon looked threatening for Melbourne Heart at times, both failed to really cause the Jets some trouble when it mattered. Referee, Ryan Shepherd did little to endear himself to the Jets fans after wrongly booking Michael Bridges for diving in the 54th minute for what appeared to be



The Jets are up and away after Jeremy Brockie converts their dominance into a 1-0 lead. PHOTO: JOHN TURTON

a clear trip and penalty.

The Jets turned their bad luck around, however, in the 60th Minute after great vision from Kantarovski found Brockie with a cross field ball whose clean left foot strike beat Bolton at the far post.

Jets coach Branko Culina attempted to hold onto the lead swapping Abbas for Jobe Wheelhouse and Brockie for Labiot Haliti in quick succession.

His attempts proved futile, when in the 79th minute a Melbourne Heart break off a Jets corner led to Ben Kantarovski a devastating own goal.

Kantarovski looked to have won the ball for the Jets but when looking to put the ball out of play, he bizarrely placed the ball around Kennedy with the outside of his boot.

Newcastle were shocked and the introduction of Tarek Elrich in the 85th minute had little effect as the Jets seemed to run out of ideas.

Melbourne also struggled to create goals even after taking greater possession of the ball in the final minutes of the half.

While the game finished on a disappointing note for the Newcastle Jets, Melbourne Heart will be happy to return home with their first point of the clubs brief history.

Melbourne Heart coach, John van't Schip said that while he felt the team didn't do that well he was still pleased with the draw.

"We had some good moments and some good chances but I think Newcastle was

the better team. But we're happy with the result," he said.

Van't Schip also said that he was happy his team showed the ability to stick together and fight back which he saw as a very positive sign of things to come.

The 8755 fans who turned out for the game will also no doubt be frustrated with the way the game turned out. However, Newcastle can take hope from the glimpses of quality they showed.

If they can build on this than they will prove to be a handful for other clubs.

Nikoli Topor Stanley said of the missed chances "we couldn't find the back of the net unfortunately", he said

"We've been working on it in training, and it's showing in our movement, but we just can't get the final product."

Bridges said of the Jets misfortune that they only had themselves to blame for the loss but he thought that overall they played magnificently.

While the Jets should have won the game, both sides had moments where they played good football but either team could have won it with a host of good chance gone to waste.

RIGHT: The Squadron was in full voice on Friday the 13th as fans added to the colour of the affair.

PHOTO: JOHN TURTON



Nikolai Topor-Stanley had a sound game and tangles with Heart's Nicholas Kalmar. PHOTO: JOHN TURTON



Tuesday 17th August 2010

NQ FURY



SYDNEY FC



Match Details:

NORTH QUEENSLAND FURY: 2
(Grossman 64', Daal 84')
SYDNEY FC: 1 (21. Jamieson 83')
Referee: Peter Green
Crowd: 5,177

North Queensland Fury:
1. Justin PASFIELD (gk), 4. Eric AKOTO, 5. Gareth HUGHES, 6. Ufuk TALAY (cpt) (17. Osama MALIK 46'), 7. Gareth EDDIS, 9. Eugene SSEPPUYA (10. Dylon Daal 67'), 11. David WILLIAMS (8. Adam CASEY), 14. Chris GROSSMAN, 15. Chris PAYNE, 16. Simon STOREY, 19. Isaka CERNAK
Subs Not used: 20. Matthew HAM (gk)

Yellow cards: Daal 83', Payne 92'
Red cards: none

Sydney FC:
1. Liam REDDY (gk), 2. Sebastian RYALL (12. Shannon COLE 79'), 3. Stephan KELLER (18. Anton GOLEC 51'), 5. Hayden FOXE, 8. Stuart MUSIALIK, 10. Nick CARLE, 14. Alex BROSSQUE, 15. Terry McFLYNN (cpt), 21. Scott JAMIESON, 22. Sung-Hwan BYUN, 23. Rhyan GRANT (11. Kofi DANNING 71')
Subs Not used: Ivan NECEVSKI (gk)

Yellow cards: Keller 37' Ryall 74', Foxe 86'
Red cards: none

Fury Stuns The Champs

By Rebecca Trbojevic

North Queensland Fury showed their new steely self-belief with a 2-1 defeat of Sydney FC at Dairy Farmers Stadium on Saturday night.

In the lead-up to the match, much of the media attention centred on the history and friendship shared by both coaches. Franz Straka and Vitezslav Lavicka played together in the Czech national team and also for Sparta Prague, and both share very similar ideas on football tactics and philosophies.

This was evident during the first half, with both sides taking a cautious approach to the match, waiting for the other to make a mistake. But it was the Fury who seemed to have the edge over the defending Hyundai A-League champions and Sydney could have even been a player down after Stephan Keller brought down Chris Payne just outside the 18 yard box in the 34th minute. Keller only received a yellow card but many in the stadium believed he was the last defender and should've been sent off.

Fury captain, Ufuk Talay played his first half of football in six weeks and during his 45 minutes stint, showed strong leadership and some excellent touches during a successful comeback from a calf injury. Osama Malik came on at half time for the Fury skipper to partner Gareth Edds in centre midfield who took over the captain duties.

Unlike the first half, the second period started with both teams looking to get forward and use the width of Dairy Farmers to their advantage.

Sydney had a series of opportunities but the Fury defence, lead by Mark Hughes, held strong and forced Sydney

to shoot from distance.

But sometimes sport needs to keep to the script and it was one of Sydney's former boys, Chris Payne, who caused havoc in attack, setting up teammate Chris Grossman for the homeside's opening goal in the 64th minute.

The Fury then continued to push on looking for the killer blow, but it was Sydney who equalised in the 83rd minute when their captain Terry McFlynn delivered a precision cross to find Scott Jamieson unmarked in the goal box.

However, the scribes had one last chapter to write, when crowd favourite and substitute Dylon Daal forced his way through the Sydney back four to slot the ball past a defenceless goal keeper to steal the win in the 84th minute.

It sparked another wild celebration from the green-army with Daal hugging coach Franz Straka before joining his teammates in a celebratory dance.

The full-time whistle could not come quick enough for the home team and as it did, Dairy Farmers Stadium erupted in delight. The entire Fury squad paid tribute to the home fans by doing a lap of thanks.

In the press conference after the match, North Queensland coach Franz Straka said his side had found his groove after being assembled just weeks ago;

"We played very well in Perth, we got one point and today three points - we are very happy about the place, we've got good balance in the team, young boys very hungry and boys with experience," he said.

Arguably the Fury's best player on the night, defender Mark Hughes said there was a new resolve in the side which had a rocky first season in 09;

"We have a team of fighters so if we keep fighting until the end of the season it will take us a long way," he said.



Coach Franz Straka gets the party started in Townsville after the Fury upstaged the reigning champs, Sydney FC. PHOTO: NQFC



Fury's Chris grossman has started the season on a flyer after scoring for the second week in a row. PHOTO: NQFFC

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MELBOURNE VICTORY



0

PERTH GLORY



2

Match Details

Melbourne Victory 0
Perth Glory 2
(Jamie HARNWELL 23', Mile STERJOVSKI 49')
Saturday, 14 August, 2010
AAMI Park, Melbourne
Referee: Gerard Parsons
Assistant referees: Luke Brennan and James Nicolopoulos
Fourth Official: Alex Azcurra
Crowd: 20,358

Melbourne Victory line-up:
1. Michael PETKOVIC (gk), 2. Kevin MUSCAT (c), 3. Mate DUGANDZIC, 5. Surat SUKHA (14. Billy CELESKI 46'), 6. Leigh BROXHAM (13. Diogo FERREIRA 76'), 8. Grant BREBNER, 12. Rodrigo VARGAS, 15. Tom PONDELJAK (11. Marvin ANGULO 63'), 16. Carlos HERNANDEZ, 19. Evan BERGER, 23. Adrian LEIJER.

Substitutes not used: 20. Sebastian MATTEI (gk),
Yellow cards: Grant BREBNER 37'
Red cards: Nil

Perth Glory line-up: 1. Tando VELAPHI, 3. Jamie COYNE, 5. Jamie HARNWELL, 7. Jacob BURNS (c), 9. Robbie FOWLER (11. Branko JELIC 82'), 12. Scott NEVILLE, 14. Steven McGARRY, 16. Adriano PELLEGRINO, 17. Todd HOWARTH, 19. Naum SEKULOVSKI, 21. Mile STERJOVSKI (15. Howard FONDYKE 84')

Substitutes not used: 20. Aleks VRTESKI (gk), 23. Andrija JUKIC
Yellow cards: Scott NEVILLE 44'
Red cards: Nil

By Roy Hay

They will be telling us next the new stadium is jinxed.

Melbourne Victory played its first home game of the 2010-11 A-League season against Perth Glory at AAMI Park on Saturday night and finished up on the wrong end of a two-nil scoreline.

Melbourne Heart lost last week, so both the football teams have yet to win or score a goal at their new home.

Victory started with the same line-up as last week while Perth were also identical to their opening game against North Queensland Fury, who had upstaged Sydney in the match which concluded just before kick-off in Melbourne.

Victory began with a flourish and some good quick passing moves which threatened but never quite unhinged the Perth defence.

The game was played at high speed in the first half, with a number of collisions and mistimed tackles which referee Gerard Par-

Glory Shocks the Victory

By David Manuca

Perth Glory has won their first ever A-League game in Melbourne, with a 2-0 victory over the Melbourne Victory in front of 20,358 fans at AAMI Park on Saturday night.

Goals to Jamie Harnwell and Mile Sterjovski either side of half-time were enough for the Glory to take the three points. In what was a very fiery contest, the Victory dominated possession for the majority of the game but were unable to capitalize on their chances.

In what was regarded as Victory's homecoming, Perth did what many teams haven't, and that's come to Melbourne with an attacking intent. The last time they came to Melbourne, they were thrashed 6-2 at the hands of the Victory, and Dave Mitchell didn't want a repeat of that to happen.

It's the first time the Glory has won an A-League in Melbourne, at the 8th time of asking, and they will be looking for a similar result when they travel back to Melbourne in two weeks time to take on the Heart. The win has moved them to the top of the table, at least temporarily, with one match remaining in Round 2.

Mitchell was gracious in his praise for

Velaphi, who has been criticized heavily with several keeping howlers during the past two seasons.

"Last week Tando got hammered. Tonight he showed true class - he was outstanding," Mitchell said.

Victory started strong and should have had the lead in the opening minutes. Adrian Leijer played in Surat Sukha, who got past the Glory defence and played a pass across the face of the goal, in which Dugandzic was only centimetres away from tapping in.

It was a hectic, end-to-end, opening and soon after Glory had their first chance of the game with Todd Howarth forcing Petkovic to tap over the bar with a nice volley.

Perth eventually un-did Melbourne midway through the first half when Steven McGarry cleverly cut the ball back across goal after a Robbie Fowler corner, where Harnwell was waiting to slot home from close range. The celebration was dedicated to his new-born son, Liam, who was born during the week.

"My wife was actually due tomorrow (Sunday) but she was actually induced Tuesday so she's been pretty dedicated to the cause as well," Harnwell said.

"Mitch (Dave Mitchell) gave me a fair bit



Yes, Chef! George Colombaris checks out the culinary delights at AAMI Park. PHOTO: ANITA MILAS



Mate Dugandzic tries to escape past Jacob Burns and Jamie Harnwell. PHOTO: ANITA MILAS

of time off this week and when coaches do that for you, you want to reward them and hopefully I did that tonight.

"To score as well was just a dream come true. It's been a huge week."

Jacob Burns was lucky not to be booked, after a lunging tackle on Evan Berger in the 25th minute. It sparked a 10 minute period with tackles flying in from both sides, but the referee decided to keep the cards in his pocket.

The crowd was then furious when Grant Brebner was booked in the 35th minute, in what seemed to be a much more modest challenge in comparison with the others.

Melbourne searched for an equaliser but shots from Sukha, Leijer and Tom Pondeljak failed to tie the scores heading in to half-time.

Merrick made one change at the break, bringing off the lively Surat Sukha for Billy Celesti.

The change made little difference though, as Perth doubled their advantage in the 49th minute. Brebner made an error in midfield, which gifted the ball to Todd Howarth.

While his pass to Fowler was cut-out, Sterjovski latched onto the loose ball and fired a shot past Petkovic from just outside the box.

For the rest of the second half, Melbourne lacked a cutting edge, and found it hard to carve out any real opportunities.

Their best chances in the second half were from a Carlos Hernandez free kick in the 74th minute, and a long-range strike from substitute Diogo Ferreira, which were both brilliantly saved by Velaphi.

Victory coach Ernie Merrick was happy with the quality of football his side played despite their inability to score.

"Our inter-passing was very good, our defence by and large was rock-solid, they had two shots on target of quality," Merrick said.

"We just didn't convert that quality possession into goals and you pay the price for it."

Victory play North Queensland next Sunday at AAMI Park, whilst the Glory play host to Newcastle Jets on Saturday at nib Stadium.

Victory unable to baptize new home with win

sons allowed to proceed. Victory defender Adrian Leijer got bang on head after two minutes but resumed groggily.

Victory tried to use the width of the pitch early on with Surat Sukha on the right and Evan Berger overlapping on the left. The opening goal was reminiscent of what happened to the Heart last week.

Perth won a corner on the right Robbie Fowler's kick had the Victory defence in a tangle as the ball hit the cross bar before being cleared.

In the 23rd minute, Perth got another and Fowler's curling inswinger eluded Michel Petkovic's attempted clearance which fell for Steve McGarry. The ex-Motherwell man knocked the second ball into the goal area where Jamie Harnwell forced it over the line.

Once again the first corner had been a warning, but the second was decisive. Having to chase the game from then on, Victory tried to open up on the flanks. Victory played very loose at the back with Adrian Leijer often operating as an auxiliary forward. Surat Sukha looked very sharp down the right and he had a couple of at-

tempts on goal, one from a Leijer through ball the other after Tom Pondeljak put him clear of the defence but on rather too narrow and angle for the shot. Nevertheless it was on target until turned over by Tando Velaphi.

Victory could not get on terms in the first half, and at the break Ernie Merrick brought on Billy Celesti, who by all accounts turned the game last week in Sydney. But it meant sacrificing Sukha and Celesti, who is trying to regain match fitness, and Hernandez appeared to slow the Victory game down.

Four minutes into the second half, Glory extended its lead.

Grant Brebner lost the ball in his own half and Todd Howarth released Robbie Fowler. The former Liverpool striker may not have scored for Glory as yet but he has been in the action all the time and he gave fellow forward Mile Sterjovski a chance to shoot which he did accurately and effectively. Fowler was withdrawn late on to chants of 'What a waste of money!' from the Victory fans, but he had done his job for his side. Victory's formation, given the lack of strik-

ers, was curious with Adrian Leijer used as an auxiliary attacker and wide player on the right. But his natural movement is back and across and only twice did he go forward with the ball at his feet.

Carlos Hernandez is no-one's idea of a central striker and his lack of pace resulted in many promising moves slowing down while he turned with the ball. Mate Dugandzic and Evan Berger are quick but both found it hard to shake a series of markers.

So Victory had to resort to some long balls from the back as it chased the game, since so many of its moves broke down in the last third of the pitch where Perth had the numbers.

After the game, David Mitchell praised Jamie Harnwell as the heart of the Glory side. His wife gave birth to their third child this week and so Harnwell arrived later than his team-mates, but his goal completed a memorable few days for him. Mitchell also pointed out that Fowler had done exactly what was asked from him as a forward, holding the ball up and bringing his team-mates into play.

Ernie Merrick denied that his team had been flat, pointing out that they had tried to play a high tempo passing game and had been generally sound at the back, but had come up against an outstanding keeper who made critical saves from Sukha and substitute Diogo Ferreira.

He thought that Hernandez had been dropping too deep and hence Mate Dugandzic was left unsupported up front and as a result was finding out how hard it was to play consistently in a tough professional league.

Given the evenness of the competition, it is likely that people will look back on these early games as part of the settling in process for both Victory and Heart.

With Victory membership just a tick under 17,000 and heading for the maximum number of seats that can be sold at the venue a big roll-up was expected and achieved. The final number was 20,358, as usual the largest attendance in the League this season so far.

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ADELAIDE UNITED



1

Match Details

Central Coast Mariners 1
(Matt SIMON 84')
Adelaide United 1
(Iain FYFE 45'+1)
Sunday, 15 August 2010
Bluetongue Stadium, Gosford
Referee: Kris Griffith-Jones
Assistant referees: Ben Wilson
and Sarah Ho
Fourth Official: Stuart Wolfe
Crowd: 8,447

Central Coast Mariners line-up: 1. Jess VANSTRATTAN (gk), 2. Daniel MCBREEN (9. Nik MRDJA 71'), 3. Joshua ROSE, 5. Brad PORTER (4. Pedj BOJIC 60'), 6. Patrick ZWAANSWIJK, 7. John HUTCHINSON, 11. Oliver BOZANIC, 14. Michael MCGLINCHY, 18. Alex WILKINSON (c), 19. Matt SIMON, 23. Adam KWASNIK (8. Rostyn GRIFFITHS 60')

Substitutes not used: 20. Mathew RYAN (gk)
Yellow cards: Joshua ROSE 18', 6. Patrick ZWAANSWIJK 70', Oliver BOZANIC 90'+4
Red cards: Nil

Adelaide United line-up: 1. Eugene GALEKOVIC (gk), 4. Iain FYFE, 5. Daniel MULLEN, 6. CASSIO, 7. Lucas PANTELLIS (c), 8. Adam HUGHES, 9. Sergio VAN DIJK (15. Francisco MONTEROSSO 90'+4), 10. Marcos FLORES (17. Iain RAMSAY 71'), 12. Paul REID, 16. Inseob SHIN (24. Cameron WATSON 68'), 19. Mathew LECKIE

Substitutes not used: 20. Mark BIRIGHITTI (gk)
Yellow cards: Adam HUGHES 15'/86', Daniel MULLEN 36', Eugene GALEKOVIC 87'
Red cards: Adam HUGHES 86'

Points shared at Bluetongue

By Adrian Deans

First home game for the Mariners in Season Six but the question in many minds was: How will the fans be welcomed back to Bluetongue?

The FFA advertising has been all about reconnecting with the fans, and it has to be said that Mariners fans (the Mariners in particular) have been treated pretty shabbily in the last couple of years – banished to an insignificant corner and told to behave – it's a wonder they kept coming.

That's why it was pleasing to see the Mariners (or the Yellow Army as they may now be known) back behind the northern end in reasonable numbers and making plenty of noise. And for the first 20 minutes they had every reason to be loud – Ollie Bozanic (assisted by debutante Josh Rose) was making life difficult for Adelaide's right side and got two excellent early crosses over – the first of which saw McBreen's thunderbolt hit the underside of the crossbar and stay out.

After that, however, Adelaide started getting into the game with Pantellis, Reid, Cassio and Leckie dominating the rest of the half. Pantellis slid two very dangerous balls between the far post and the on-rushing Van Dyke and the Mariners were probably lucky to survive.

It was about to get worse. First, a superb switch from Cassio picked out Pantellis whose shot from a difficult angle was bound for the top corner until brilliantly tipped over by Jess Vanstrattan, who would reasonably have been expecting a cross. Then, a minute into injury time, Pantellis' free kick from the right found Ian Fyfe being ignored by markers – he couldn't miss from six yards, and there was barely time to kick off again before the half time whistle blew.

Adelaide's lead was marginally deserved. The Reds certainly had the better of the last 20 minutes, but the game hadn't really got out of second gear. That was about to change. Enter Matt Simon and Michael McGlinchey (neither of whom had had much impact in the first 45) to see the Mariners take control of the midfield and the pres-



Joshua Rose goes over Inseob Shin's shin PHOTO: KAREN DOUGLAS

sure rose as the Mariners went after an equaliser.

The pressure increased again when Graham Arnold made a double change on the hour mark – bringing on Bojic and Griffiths for Porter and Kwasnik, with Simon moving forward. Suddenly the urgency was there and the simple pass and move game was paying dividends, and finally the crowd were brought into the game. The crowd invited back by the FFA was inspired by the on-field performance and in response the players lifted again.

The penalty box action increased dramatically as the Mariners dominated the last 20 minutes. Hutchinson's volley on the turn was well saved by Galekovic, and Bozanic's ambitious volley from the edge of the box would not stay down. Then finally the Mariners had their goal with only five minutes of normal time left. After failing to perfectly control Mrdja's ball on the edge of the box, Bozanic kept his head

and instead of lashing at the half chance, swept the ball left to Matt Simon who finished neatly at the near post.

It was no less than the Mariners deserved and after that they might easily have won it. Bojic did well to twist his way into the box and shot weakly off balance when he had a screaming Matt Simon in space. Then in the dying minutes, came one of the main points of contention. Mullen failing to control a bouncing ball let it bounce up and strike him on the right hand in front of his own goal. Ninety-nine times out of a hundred, such incidents result in a penalty, but Mr Griffiths Jones officiating in his second A-League game deemed it non-deliberate. Despite the howls of protest, I for one agreed with the referee. The laws of the game insist that a handball must be deliberate in order to result in a free kick. If Griffiths Jones had been in charge when Australia played Ghana, then

Harry Kewell might have stayed on the park, and Australia might have played deeper into the tournament.

In the end, a draw was just about the right result. The standard of football (especially in the second half) was good and the crowd left both relieved and satisfied. Eight and a half thousand made a lot of noise, and considering that the local competition is still being played, there are thousands more spectators likely to attend while the Mariners serve up this kind of entertainment.

3 points – Ollie Bozanic
2 points – Lucas Pantellis
1 point – Michael McGlinchey

Adrian Deans is the author of *Mr Cleansheets* – published by Vulgar Press, distributed by Dennis Jones and Associates and available in all good book stores.

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John Thornley

Altona Magic FC



PHOTO: JOHN PUNSHON

FULL NAME: Johnny Thornley
BIRTHPLACE: Perth
BIRTH DATE: 22/06/1987
HEIGHT: 198cm
WEIGHT: 86kgs
MARRIED: No way
CAR: Ford Falcon
NICKNAME: Johnny
PREVIOUS CLUBS: Western Knights, ECU Joondalup (Perth)
REPRESENTATIVE HONOURS: WA state team juniors and seniors
CHILDHOOD FOOTBALL HERO: Ian Wright, Thierry Henry
FAVOURITE O/S PLAYER: Fernando Torres
FAVOURITE HAL PLAYER: Andrija Jukic
FAVOURITE FORMER SOCCEROO: Harry Kewell
FAVOURITE CURRENT SOCCEROO: Harry Kewell
MOST MEMORABLE MATCH AS A PLAYER: Scoring 5 against Northcote and still losing 7-5
MOST MEMORABLE MATCH AS A FAN: Any game Arsenal wins
MOST MEMORABLE GOAL YOU'VE SCORED: Scoring goal to win 2004 league Western Knights
EARLIEST FOOTBALL MEMORY: Playing first game losing 6-nil
BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT: Not turning Pro
WORST INJURY: Osteitis Pubis
MOST DIFFICULT OPPONENT: Don't know anyone's names in VPL
FAVOURITE AWAY GROUND: Melb Knights
SUPERSTITIONS: None
TYPICAL MATCH DAY MEAL: Whatever's in Fridge
WHAT ARE YOUR STRENGTHS: Pace, Strength
WHAT ARE YOUR WEAKNESSES: Concentration
FAVOURITE TEAM WHEN GROWING UP: Arsenal
FAVOURITE OTHER SPORTS: Martial Arts, Baseball
FAVOURITE OTHER SPORTSPERSON: Matt Hughes
FAVOURITE FOODS: Steak Chips
FAVOURITE ACTOR/ACTRESS: Kate Beckinsale
HOBBIES: Going out with mates, Gym
FAVOURITE HOLIDAY RESORT: Vegas
FAVOURITE NIGHTSPOT: Ambar - Perth
IDEAL DATE: Kate Beckinsale
FAVOURITE TV SHOWS: Seinfeld, Only Fools and Horses
FAVOURITE MUSIC: Electro, trance
FAVOURITE FILM: Football Factory
LAST SOCCER SHIRT YOU BOUGHT: England Top
FUNNIEST RUMOUR YOU'VE HEARD ABOUT YOURSELF: Can't say
BIGGEST INFLUENCE ON CAREER: Parents
BIGGEST DRAG IN SOCCER: Training
FOOTBALL AMBITION: To win trophies at every club I'm at
WHICH PERSON IN THE WORLD WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO MEET? Ricky Gervais
YOUR TIP FOR THIS YEAR'S HALI: Sydney FC
YOUR TIP FOR THIS YEAR'S VPL: Home City



BOO'S WORLD

With Mark Boric



There has been no shortage of football on television this week, if you have Foxtel that is. There was a midweek Socceroos friendly against Slovenia, which I can inform all non-Foxtel subscribing readers that they didn't miss much. Well aside from a miss of the season contender from Bruce Djite on the rebound of a cross hitting the crossbar. It made me cross.

I doubt new Socceroos coach Holger Osieck would have been happy with it either. The surprise appointment was announced just prior to the game, and quickly speculation mounted that his hiring may have been done to curry favour with his friend Franz Beckenbauer and help secure a World Cup hosting vote for 2022. When questioned on this, Frank Lowy said "this is a question of questions", which I'd reckon Der Kaiser would find questionable as it seemed to be a slightly cryptic way of saying yes, without a question.

The action moved over to rainy Wellington on Friday as the Phoenix took on Gold Coast United in a game of football you would have been well prepared for if you'd trained on the old Slip'n'Slide plastic sheeting popular in the summers of the 1980's. The rain brought goals with it, three for each side as the A-League draw pandemic spread across the continent.

Flicking channels it was over to the Biography Channel, to check on Judge Judy and The People's Court to see if a verdict had been announced in the matter of South Melbourne FC v Football Federation Victoria. Of course there would turn out to be no news, as having this resolved before the final round of the season would not fit it with the shambolic way the 2010 VPL season has been run so far.

Melbourne Heart went to Newcastle Jets for their first ever away game, and a freak own goal from Ben Kantarovski gave them a lucky point with a 1-1 draw. It was a long way short of the Wellington-Gold

Coast game but better than Slovenia-Australia.

Saturday was Matchday Saturday, the return of Mark Bosnich's laugh to our screens. And the best laughs came at the expense of reigning champions Sydney FC, who fell to a 2-1 defeat at North Queensland Fury. North Queensland are off to a great start in 2010, boosted by new coach Franz Straka and his coat of awesomeness. Inspired by his fashion choice, his players responded after conceding an equaliser to Scott Jamieson by scoring immediately through Dylon Daal. Straka stood up on the bench, and urged the crowd to make more noise, clearly feeling that his jacket was awesome, his team was awesome and they deserved more acknowledgment. From then on the result was never in doubt.

Melbourne Victory then hosted their first competitive game at AAMI Park, against Perth Glory. Now I think it time to call some witch doctors in or something, because this ground is clearly cursed

for Melbourne teams. No sooner have Melbourne Storm moved in than they are being stripped of NRL Premierships left, right and centre. Then Melbourne Heart are defeated 0-1 by Central Coast Mariners in their first ever game, and now Victory lose their first game there as well, 0-2 to Perth.

The Victory fans turned on Glen Moss pretty early last season, and Michael Petkovic is sure to come under fire soon. Now apportioning blame can be a pretty subjective thing, but I would have thought the goal they conceded in Sydney last week was a pretty cut and dried matter. I mean Kevin Muscat spinning on the ball, tripping over the ball, losing possession leading to a simple pass which set up a tap in was pretty blatant. So it was amusing to watch SBS The World Game on Monday night and witness Craig Foster spend 10 minutes explaining how it was everyone else's fault but Musky's. For a bloke who was so keen to attack Ange Postecoglou on the same program a few years ago,

it was a rather disgusting display of agenda and bias which one would assume his recent book is full of.

Next up was Tottenham Hotspur v Manchester City. Spurs started brilliantly, and sliced through the City defense with ease in a manner not seen in London since Jack the Ripper was on the rampage in 1888. They just couldn't score. The goalkipping from Joe Hart was sensational, earning his side a point. So then things become a little more difficult. It is possible to multi-task and watch four games at once, but even with the four split screens on the Viewer's Choice facility you are still missing the two games on the main channels. There have been goals everywhere, especially for Blackpool, but I can't keep up with it all. It gets worse on the final day of the season, when every game is on at the same time. A bit like the VPL season is supposed to finish, except in years the FFV can't manage it to get all the fixtures completed before the final round....

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THE KATSA

With George Katsamboukas



Traditionally, teams going into the last round of any league know what they have to do so as to score a 'Happy End', or to avoid the Westgate.

Not so the VPL where the composition of the Final 5 will not be determined by the results of the last round, but outcomes this week from the Supreme Court where the decision of the South Melbourne Appeal will be announced on Tuesday.

Another fun filled year in the VPL, full of point's deductions and Tribunal hearings!

Can't wait to see what 2011 brings.

Over to the The Men In Black we go, where the House of Darebin's Referees Coordinator should take the State's Finest Ref's to the Underwear Section of K-Mart and provide them a refresher in Men's Underwear styles. Where am I going with this you may ask?

What I witnessed on the weekend was something that left a 700 Gamer wondering.

A player was about to come on the

field where the Man In Black mistook his Underwear for Bicycle Shorts, and he asked the player to remove these, as they were not the same Colour as his Shorts.

The player duly obliged and played the match without any "Under" assistance.

Simple Moral to the story is that believe it or not, Men's Underwear is no longer made up of Jock Style designs, PS K-Mart does have 24 hour stores, and they are awaiting your visit.

This week's Lowy League certainly produced some interesting results, with last year's grand finalists Ernie FC and Sydney FC going down to Perth and NQF.

Fridays match between Wellington and Miron FC was certainly an interesting one, with the Wellington Playing surface being more suitable for a Happy End Girls Wet T-Shirt Competition, as opposed to a Soccer Match.

Speaking of Happy End Girls over to Katsa's Odd Spot of the week we go, where a Happy End Establishment in South Melbourne was engulfed in Flames early Friday morning.

All Club Powerbrokers were accounted for and a Senior Policeman stated that there was a 'Burnt Rubber Smell' was "Coming" out of the building.

Goal of the year has been settled already, the Branko FC's defenders own goal, where he slotted the ball top corner has the votes!

Ben and Co have now ticked the box of finding a replacement for Pim, with German Gaffer, Osieck quietly slipping into the Top Job.

Thankfully for him he does not have big boots to fill.

Until next week.

This is Katsa, just as you've known him. And remember, avoiding "ings" makes one's life very very dull!

The day 'God' came to town.
PHOTO: ANITA MILAS



TSIGAN'S TSIGAR

With Mike Lilikakis

Tsigan Rolls One Up from the Central Coast!

T. KOL

Seems to me that Football Executives never played the game at a decent level. I should actually go a little further below the belt. Football Executives are a bunch of scabs who scam every penny farthing from parents, supporters and players to cocaine line their own coffers, pockets and THEN purchase expensive Lexus' for their mistresses and or boyfriends. Lets travel further below the equator shall we? Football Executives are pond scum, Algae sheet. They are the lowest form of life besides lawyers and paedophiles. Can I go any lower? No. I wouldn't want to be seen as a Football Executive. BOOYAH!

So, this week's Tsigan gets dedicated to the real tough cookies, the blood nuts of our beautiful sport. I'm not looking for you to agree. THIS IS MY SPACE! I DO ASS EYE PLEEUZ...and apart from the bad grammar...its my prerogative homeboy.

Here's a double of my top FC Twente, but in top Ten format starting from 15 and in no consecutive order of preference...muahhahahahahem.

BULLY BROTHERS

As well as being the definitive man's man, Dave Mackay was the indestructible hero in the movies who leaves his enemies shouting, "What does it take to kill this goddamn sunnabitch?" as bullets, knives and sharply worded insults bounce off him. Mackay was definitely one of the good guys: a genuinely outstanding left-half and a truly honourable man, who used his clout to put the hurt on opponents but never - never - to seriously hurt them. Nonetheless he was intimidating enough to send the opposition, psychologically, for an early bath. And engaging him aggressively was not to be advised. Bruce Banner had nothing on Mackay.

Billy Bremner discovered this when he kicked Mackay's bad leg. The picture of Mackay, teeth gritted so hard that it seems like they're about to splinter everywhere, grabbing a terrified Bremner by the shirt was football's most iconic hard-man photo until thespian spitthouse Vinnie Jones tried to get blood out of Paul Gascoigne's stones.

Mackay could show anger, but never - never - pain. Not because, like Steve Waugh for example, he thought it showed weakness to the opposition, but because the part of his brain that registered pain or fear had apparently stopped working. After he suffered a grotesque leg-break at Old Trafford in 1963 which would keep him out for almost two years, he barely grimaced, and as he was stretched off he sat up leaning on his elbow looking almost bored. Truly, types come no stronger, or silent.

Billy Whitehurst

Billy Boy was one of the most evocative examples of football's capacity for romance and fairytale. Billy's boot, which spent in many a time on helpless defenders, was one of the most provocative examples of football's mundane, crippling reality. And his elbows weren't especially congenial either.

Whitehurst, a journeyman striker described by Alan Hansen as the hardest man he played against, would give him a serious run for his money. Some might surmise that Whitehurst was the unprepossessing evocation of a mercifully bygone age of wanton thuggery. Others would simply say that he was an utter bastard.

Nobody would deny that he was seriously hard. He once apparently offered out the entire Crystal Palace side in the players' lounge at Huddersfield. When he was at Oxford, he was rumoured to be supplementing his weekly pay, and winding down, with some bare-knuckle tomfoolery with local gypsies. Neil Ruddock said that, when Billy whispered sweet promises in his ear mid match, "I used to start shaking".

Vinnie Jones, a colleague at Sheffield United, recalls in his autobiography how Billy nipped a burgeoning rumble with a phalanx of Sheffield Wednesday fans in the bad by sparking out the opposition ringleader with "one of the best right-handers I have ever seen inside or outside a ring". During that spell at Sheffield United, he was sent out to roam the green with the explicit instructions from his manager, Dave Bassett: "Go and cause some bollocks, Billy." He so rarely disappointed.



Claudio Gentile

If someone punches you by surprise, it doesn't hurt that much because it's unexpected; if someone tells you they're going to punch you and then does so, it really smarts. The first example is playing football against everyone else; the second is playing football when you're being man-marked by Claudio Gentile.

With Gentile, the ultimate symbol of Italian cynicism, pain was always in the post, and usually by special delivery. He was a celebrity stalker, whose target switched every week to the opposition's best player. Gentile didn't give a flyer about the narrative of the game; his part was simply to stop his direct opponent by foul means or fouler. Nothing was off limits. He would spit in your face, or draw conclusions about your mother that even the Goldie Lookin' Chain would balk at. And if he thought you looked in urgent need of a prostate examination, well, why wait for the doctors?

It was like working alongside someone right up to the point where you're just talking incessantly about nothing. Only a lot worse. He did his most famous number on Maradona at the 1982 World Cup, with a performance that would have come close to justifying the existence of 40 cameras with different porn angles. But Gentile didn't discriminate: he would put as much time and effort into banyoning Peter Beardsley or even Cristiano Ronaldo as he would Maradona. And, without exception, they knew it was coming. I wish he was like HIGGINS. An immortal bludgeoner to take out the frickin' emo's in our game...SIGH!

In short, is a football and Hollywood star. He holds the record for being the quickest player ever to be yellow-carded in a game of professional soccer. "I must have been too high, too wild, too strong or too early, because, after three seconds, I could hardly have been too bloody late!" He was booked 3 seconds into the game. He was sent off more than ten times. Is banned from flying on Virgin Atlantic after causing a fight on a flight to Tokyo. Every Centre-Backs hero.

Muscat was branded a "lowlife" and a "nobody" by ex-England striker Ian Wright, then of Nottingham Forest F.C., in September 1999. Wright claimed Kevin Muscat was about to shoot when Wright heard Dougie Freedman, Forest's other striker, shout "leave it". Wright stepped over the ball to allow Freedman to hit it, but instead Muscat (who had, according to Wright, merely impersonated Freedman) appeared to clear the ball. Nice one dude.

Muscat has a reputation as a football 'hard man', and was dubbed the "most hated man in football" by then Birmingham City F.C. player or Martin Granger in 2000. This was due to Kevin Muscat's many encounters with opposing players being apparently, unnecessarily, physically, dirty during play. Kevin Muscat has previously seriously injured both Craig Bellamy and Christophe Dugarry, the latter in a friendly international between Australia and France national football team in 2001 with a crunching sliding tackle from behind. The French manager Roger Lemerre dubbed the tackle "an act of brutality". Given the 'friendly' status of the match which was designed to prepare Australia for the two-legged playoff against Uruguay, Muscat had a lot to answer for but to no one in particular. Dugarry was sidelined with a serious knee ligament injury for several months. Many people then suggested that Kevin Muscat should be banned for the period Dugarry was out for, however this was rejected by FIFA tribunal. There was speculation that Muscat's temperament, his angst for Sunshine George Cross in the relegation zone, and Caroline Springs having no Springs or chicks called Caroline was the reason Kevin Muscat was never selected for

inclusion in an Old Firm encounter during the season Kevin Muscat was at Rangers. Others say Muscat had the IQ of an infant and therefore was not culpable, feeble or genital.

In 2004, a lawsuit on Muscat brought by former Charlton Athletic F.C. player Matty Holmes, resulted in a settlement of £250,000 plus costs in favour of Holmes, bringing the estimated settlement to around £750,000. Holmes had to have at least four major operations on his leg following a spagastic tackle by Muscat in 1998. There were initial fears that Holmes' leg might have to be amputated. The claim was settled at the High Court without any admission of liability. In a Carling Cup tie while at Millwall, Kevin Muscat grabbed the throat of Liverpool striker Milan Baros. Pity he didn't grab his nuts and enjoyed the fact that he had none.

In December 2005, Kevin Muscat was the first A-League player called to appear before a Football Federation Australia disciplinary hearing in its inaugural season and was subsequently suspended for two matches on grounds of "violent conduct". He apparently "looked" at a player in the wrong tone of voice. In October 2006 Muscat was involved in an incident with then Adelaide United coach John Kosmina. Muscat entered Adelaide's technical area and knocked Kosmina over while Muscat was "retrieving the ball" from under Kosmina's chair. Kosmina responded by grabbing Muscat by the throat. Kosmina was sent to the stands and Muscat received a yellow card. Kosmina was later suspended for a further four matches. In truth, Kosmina was only trying to chat up Kev, as Kev is quite a spunky lad even without his 1995 mullet.

Muscat's dominant personality and aggressive style has equally won admirers and detractors in the A-League, with former England international Terry Butcher stating, "Every manager in the A-League would love to have Kevin, and I'm no exception".

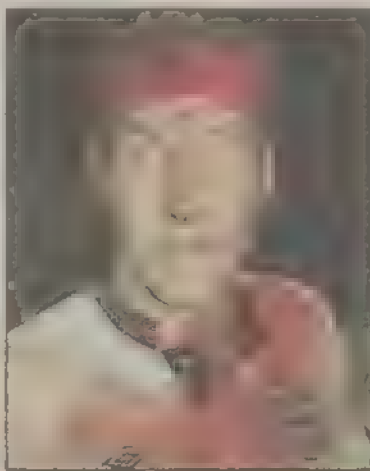
Sanchez earned his place after playing the lead role in the 'battle of Santiago', widely regarded as one of the dirtiest matches in the history of the world cup. During Chile's 1962 group 2 clash with Italy the bad feeling was so intense that the first foul occurred after 12 seconds and the first sending off after just 12 minutes! The English referee Ken Aston, had already overlooked one outrageous roundhouse by Sanchez on Italian Mario David, when Sanchez inexplicably turned to Italian captain Humberto Maschio and promptly knocked him out in one punch.

Terry Butcher

Although born in Singapore, Butcher will always be remembered as a true Englishman with the heart of a lion. Butcher was an uncompromising player, strong as an ox with the courage to match.

This was evident during a vital world cup qualifier in Sweden. Butcher had suffered a deep cut to his forehead, an injury so bad that most players would have simply left in the first available ambulance. However, Butcher is made of sterner stuff and after a few impromptu stitches and a quick swath of bandages Butcher continued and won almost every header for the rest of the game. Butcher's white England shirt covered in blood to a point where it was almost red remains as a defining point for a true England legend.

It's not just the fact that he's covered in blood, it's the wild look in his eye - exaggerated by the flash from the cameras - that makes this such an iconic moment. Was it



clever? Probably not. And there's no way a ref would let him keep playing in the 21st century. And the white shirt maybe makes it look a bit more dramatic than it really was. But you can't argue with the fact that Butcher knew he had an open head wound but kept heading away Swedish attacks regardless. I get the feeling he'd head away a brick if it dared enter the English penalty area.

Mick Harford

A nurse once cried when she saw what football had done to Mick Harford's face. An errant Sam Allardyce elbow had left him with more than 100 stitches inside his mouth and out. And a tooth poking out of his top lip for good measure.

The centre-forward took the pain, discharged himself and went home later that day. He returned to the game when his features could take another beating. Self-styled hard man Vinnie Jones shied away from 'welcoming' Harford into the Crazy Gang. He remains the only player never to have been irritated. No-one cut up Mick's trousers. No-one let the tyres down on his car.

He was a dominant force in football wherever in the world he played but his status as a legend was cemented in England. It was also while playing for Manchester United that the fiery Frenchman was involved in the most controversial incident of his career, a flying kick to a fan. The kick earned him a nine month suspension from football and he was benched by his team. The footballer was also sentenced to two weeks in prison over the attack but this was reduced to 120 hours of community service as usually happens with famous people.

The most interesting thing about this story is the fact that after a seemingly career ending assault on a fan, Cantona returned to play for United after his ban and won the Footballer of the Year award for the following year. Then in 1997 he won the Premiership with United and announced his retirement from football at the age of 30. He is such an interesting footballer that he managed to make a comeback after that incident and became even more popular after it than he ever was before it.

Harald 'Toni' Schumacher

The West Germany goalkeeper featured for his country at the Euro 1980 and 1984 finals but his main qualification for inclusion in this list was his either shameful, or enigmatic assault on France's Patrick Battiston at the 1982 World Cup. He also went on to write an autobiography in which he claimed that many West German players/teammates were taking banned substances. He finished his career in Turkey, where every week he apparently smacked some player in the nuts for getting too close to him on corners. Nice.

Bert Trautmann

Bernhard Trautmann was born in Bremen in 1923 and joined the Hitler Youth when he was 10 years old. When asked why he did this he told them that they don't understand the situation which was there. You had to do it; you had no mind or decision of your own. He stated further that his education began in England at the age of 22. When he was 18 he joined the Luftwaffe and trained as a paratrooper. His unit was sent to the Ukraine and they had to make lightning strikes on Red Army supply lines. He excelled, got promoted to corporal, then to sergeant and receive five medals including the Iron Cross.

When Trautmann was posted to France in 1944, he was fleeing from the American army, jumped the fence and landed at the feet of a British soldier who said to him, "Hello Fritz, Fancy a cup of tea?" Priceless. He was kept in a POW camp in Cheshire, Lancashire and in 1948 was offered repatriation to Germany. He decided to stay, shortened his name to Bert and was working on a farm. On the weekend he went to the local football team St. Helena Town. Within a year Manchester City, which in the First Division, asked him to join. The hatred for Trautmann was terrible. The fans on the terrace were men who fought five years ago against the Nazis and Trautmann was once a Nazi. The point also was that he didn't give himself up, he was captured.

Seventeen Minutes from time into the 1956 FA Cup, Bert Trautmann, became a legend. Birmingham City striker, Peter Murphy, rushed towards the Manchester City goal and

Bert Trautmann the Goalkeeper saved the shot but the knee of Murphy smashed into his head. Trautmann's neck was skewed horribly and he was unconscious. They revived Trautmann and just with a dab of the 'magic sponge' he played the game till the end. On top of it all, he made several other great savings and they won 3-1. When he received the winner's medal Prinz Philip asked him why his neck was crooked? Trautmann answered, 'stiff neck.' Only after three days was the full extent of the 'stiff neck' realized. It showed, on an X-ray, that his second of his vertebrae was split in half. The reason for his survival was, that his third vertebrae had slammed against it and wedged fast. The doctor who saw the X-ray said, "you should be dead." Traut was a true Kraut.

R. Keane

The recipient of no less than 13 red cards in his career, former amateur boxer Keane was probably one of the hardest players in the modern era. After one particularly nasty knee high challenge that debatably ended Alf Inge Haaland's career, Keane thought it best to bring out a book to set the record straight. In a paragraph that obviously states his remorse for Haaland's decline, Keane said; "I'd waited long enough I ***** hit him hard. The ball was there (I think). Take that you ****. And don't ever stand over me sneering about fake injuries."

Graeme Souness

For whatever he did as a player and manager, nothing surpasses his bollocks on this doozie. He went to manage Galatasaray in Turkey, and again managed to court controversy with local issues - nearly sparking a riot after placing a large Galatasaray flag into the centre circle of the pitch of arch rivals Fenerbahce after Galatasaray had beaten them in the Turkish Cup final on 24 April 1996. The iconic image of the victor planting the flag drew comparisons with Turkish hero Ulubatli Hasan, who was killed as he planted the Ottoman flag at the end of the Siege of Constantinople. This earned Souness the nickname 'Ulubatli Souness'.

Duncan Ferguson

The Piece de resistance, and creme de la creme. Duncan Ferguson was eroded by wind and rain from a large piece of magma, a process taking several millennia. He became animate in 1971, 523 years ahead of schedule, due to the dismal guff that passes for weather in Scotland.



Annoyed at having to wait 523 years to fulfil his destiny of saving the planet from The League of Evil, after all others (even Chuck Norris, yes) had failed, Duncan Ferguson decided to whittle away a few years playing football. That's euro football by the way, Duncan Ferguson knows not what this soccer is, and if you use words he doesn't understand around him, he will come and Get You. Famed for his restrained conduct on the field of play and graceful goalscoring, he now lies dormant, awaiting his chance to invade the USA, China and Russia. In 2001, Ferguson was the victim of a burglary attempt by two men at his then home in Rufford, Lancashire. Ferguson confronted the pair, and was able to detain one of them who subsequently spent three days in hospital.

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Yesica Toscanini Age: 24

Can't Otte Juan Román Riquelme (Boca Juniors).

Couch Potato Dept.

* ALL TIMES ARE AEST



Monday August 16th 2010

4:30 pm **FIFA Futbol Mundial** - Weekly magazine show that travels the globe to bring you the stars of today, the talents of tomorrow and the heroes of the past.

11:30 pm **The World Game** - Presented by David Basheer and Craig Foster. Non-stop news, views, reviews, highlights, features and profiles on football from around the world plus all the results and news from the major competitions and tournaments. Includes commentary from current and former players.

Sunday August 22nd 2010

10:30 am **Football Asia** - Provides the latest news and updates of the various football leagues across Asia.

11:00 am **Les Murray's Football Feature**

12:00 pm **FIFA Futbol Mundial** - Weekly magazine show that travels the globe to bring you the stars of today, the talents of tomorrow and the heroes of the past.



All games LIVE unless stated. All times AEST

A-LEAGUE

Fri Aug 20	Adelaide v Melbourne Heart	7:30 pm
Sat Aug 21	Perth v Newcastle	5:00 pm
Sat Aug 21	Brisbane v Sydney	7:30 pm
Sun Aug 22	Wellington v Central Coast	1:00 pm
Sun Aug 22	Melbourne v North Queensland	3:00 pm

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE

Sat Aug 21	Arsenal v Blackpool	11:55 pm
Sat Aug 21	Everton v Wolves	11:55 pm Viewers Choice
Sat Aug 21	Stoke v Tottenham	11:55 pm Viewers Choice
Sat Aug 21	West Brom v Sunderland	11:55 pm Viewers Choice
Sat Aug 21	West Ham v Bolton	11:55 pm Viewers Choice
Sun Aug 22	Wigan v Chelsea	2:10 am
Sun Aug 22	Birmingham v Blackburn	7:00 pm (DELAY)
Sun Aug 22	Newcastle v Aston Villa	10:25 pm
Mon Aug 23	Fulham v Manchester United	12:55 am
Tues Aug 24	Manchester City v Liverpool	4:55 am

npower FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Sun Aug 22	Coventry v Derby	4:30 am (DELAY)
Mon Aug 23	Middlesbrough v Sheffield United	5:00 am (DELAY)

FOX SPORTS FC

Tues Aug 17	8:30 pm
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Monday 16th August

3:15am	Russian Premier League - Lokomotiv Moscow vs. Spartak Moscow LIVE
5:15am	Portuguese Liga - Benfica vs Academica LIVE

Wednesday 18th August

8pm	J-League - Kawasaki Frontale vs Nagoya Grampus LIVE
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Thursday 19th August

10:45am	Copa Libertadores Final 2nd Leg - Internacional vs Chivas LIVE
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Friday 20th August

10:45am	Copa Sudamericana - Pa meiras vs Vitoria LIVE
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Saturday 21st August

4:40am	Bundesliga - Bayern Munich vs Wolfsburg LIVE
9:00 SPL	Hamilton vs Hearts LIVE

Sunday 22nd August

12am	J-League - Kyoto Sanga vs Yokohama Marinos
2:30am	Bundesliga - Hamburg vs Schalke LIVE
4:30am	Russian Premier League - Spartak Moscow vs Tom Tomsk
6:10am	Portuguese Liga - Nacional vs Benfica LIVE
10am	Eredivisie - Ajax vs Roda JC
9:15pm	SPL - Hibernian vs Rangers LIVE

Monday 23rd August

10:15am	SPL - Celtic vs St Mirren
4:15pm	Bundesliga - Dortmund vs Bayer Leverkusen
10:30pm	Russian Premier League - Rubin Kazan vs Sturm



The Futbol Town Show
Every Monday
7pm

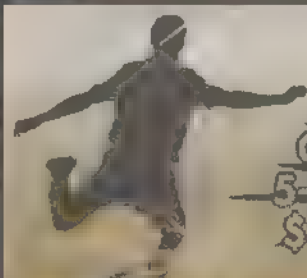
SMFC TV
Channel 31
Every Saturday
10:00am

Extra Time Magazine Show
Every Wednesday
8pm

The Green Gully Football Show
Every Saturday
10:30am



Global Football Show
Jacob Kagi and Ian Hooper
discusses local, national and international football every Thursday night from 7:30-9pm on WA's SportFM 91.3



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BLAST FROM THE PAST

Sir Arthur George, President of the Australian Soccer Federation,

With Roy Hay

The reign of Australia's King George

Arthur George, later Sir Arthur, was president of the Australian Soccer Federation (ASF) for twenty years. He was acting president in 1968 and retired from the presidency in 1988. In that time he presided over the first qualification for the World Cup in 1974, the establishment of the National Soccer League in 1977, Australia's membership of Oceania and the hosting of the World Youth Cup in 1981.

Born Athanasios Theodore Tzortzatos in 1915, the son of poor Greek migrants from the island of Kithira, he fought his way into the legal profession by dint of hard work and driving ambition after his father's business collapsed during the Great Depression in 1933. By 1938 he had made enough to open his own office in Martin Place in Sydney. As one of the first lawyers with a Greek background, he quickly established a flourishing practice among his fellow migrants. He soon diversified into real estate, house building, taxi cabs, trawlers and milk bars, setting up ambitious youngsters who did the work and made money for themselves and for him.

In the post-war years he was in on the ground floor of the property boom in Sydney. He got into shopping centres in partnership with another dynamic migrant, Sir Peter Abeles. Having missed a formal university education, he endowed the Chair of Classical Archaeology at Sydney University and donated loan funds to a generation of students to give them the start which he had yearned for. He was given a knighthood in 1972 for services to the university, to Greek interests in Australia and to sport. His business and legal career had its share of controversies, including dealings with reputedly shady operations in Greece during the rule of the colonels, disciplinary charges by the Law Society and eventual bankruptcy. He was still engaged in a legal battle with Soccer Australia in 1997 over funds he claimed to have loaned to the ASF before leaving office a decade earlier.

Given his involvement in Greek affairs in Australia, it was probably inevitable that George became involved with the Pan-Hellenic club, the precursor of Sydney Olympic, and through that with the New South Wales Federation of Soccer Clubs, where he became vice-president. He became acting president of the Australian Soccer Federation in 1968 and succeeded Sir William Walkley as president in 1969. Under his leadership the Federation quickly appointed Rale Rasic as coach of the Socceroos, with the task of qualifying for the World Cup in West Germany in 1974. Despite the expense involved, Rasic was backed to take a squad of experienced and younger players on an extensive overseas tour in 1970 and the nucleus of the 1974 team emerged from that experience. The success in 1974 gave rise to expectations that Australia would continue to be involved in World Cup final tournaments, but they were not fulfilled.

Subsequently George and Rasic fell out, partly, according to Rale, because of his association with Gough Whitlam and the Labor Party, while George was much more closely associated with the Liberals. Rasic's criticisms of the football establishment of the day did not endear him to George. To be fair to George, however, he said of himself, 'I make it my business to be friends with the premiers and politicians in most



Rale Rasic (left) and Sir Arthur George (right) in happier times. Source: Laurie Schwab collection, Deakin University Library.



Under the broiles in Sydney, Sepp Blatter, General Secretary of FIFA, Joao Havelange, President of FIFA, Barron of Coca Cola, Harry Cavan, Vice-President of FIFA and Sir Arthur George. Source: Les Shorrocks collection, Deakin University Library.



Sir Arthur George and Theo Marmaras, Presidents of the ASF and VSF respectively. Source: Les Shorrocks collection, Deakin University Library.



Mr Warnedjo hands over FIFA flag to Sir Arthur George at the closing ceremony of the Oceania Cup in Noumea in 1980. Source: Les Shorrocks collection, Deakin University Library.

states. It is important to have access to ministers and the people in power—not on a subversive basis but on an equality basis.'

The ASF's coaching appointments after Rasic proved to be a series of disasters and George was largely responsible for some of them. George saw off a challenge by Frank Lowy for the presidency in the 1980s. If Lowy had gained the top job the history of the Australian game might have been different, but Lowy would have had to restructure the game as was planned in the Crawford report a generation later and that exercise would have been hard to carry out in the 1980s. Sir Arthur George tried to change the governance of the game but was unable to do so as the states and the clubs had a stranglehold on the voting structure of the Federation as a result of the way it was set up in 1958-63.

Most people did not appreciate the financial constraints under which the ASF operated when it came to fielding the national teams. As George pointed out in 1978, the recently concluded World Cup campaign had cost the ASF more than a quarter of a million dollars net. Air fares and accommodation for match officials alone had absorbed over \$40 000, which George pointed out was more than some European teams spent on their whole travel budget.

Though the move to form a national soccer league sprang from the clubs, it was finally the ASF under George which brought the long-talked about project to fruition in 1977, overcoming strong objections from Victoria in particular. Sir Arthur George was responsible for obtaining much of the sponsorship support for both the National Soccer League and the Socceroos.

Sir Arthur George had a vision for the game, promoting young Australian-born players rather than mercenary migrants. He wanted each state to set up a youth squad following a common national program overseen by the national coach, who would thus be a full-time employee and not just the man in charge of the Socceroos when they were playing matches. However, like many of his ideas this one foundered on the self-interests of the clubs and the states. His much-criticised appointment of Eric Worthington as the first National Coaching Director resulted in the ASF having one of the first strategic coaching plans for the development of players of any sport in Australia. One consequence of this was that when the Australian Institute of Sport was set up, football became part of the program because of its leadership in the field of player and coach development.

Sir Arthur George played a part on the international stage. He became a member of the FIFA Executive from 1980 to 1984, even though for a brief period he had earlier pulled Australia out of the Oceania Confederation without securing membership of the Asian Confederation as he had hoped. He helped Australia gain the World Youth Cup, which it hosted with success in 1981. He was awarded the Order of Australia in 1987 and the FIFA Gold Order of Merit in 1994. He stepped down as President of the ASF in 1988, donating \$300 000 to the Federation when he did so.

George held the factions in the ASF together through a tumultuous period and, though some saw him as a dictator, his power to change the direction of the game was actually much less than that of Frank Lowy today.



Serbia
The national side played a mid-week friendly against Greece in Belgrade losing to the former European Champions 1:0 in a match which the White Eagles dominated but failed to turn the chances into goals.

Nikola Zigic and Dragan Mrdja came very close to scoring but their poor finishing will be costly in the European Championships qualifiers which start in June. Luckily it was just a friendly but these days even a friendly loss for Serbia is looked at as a big disappointment.

The Antic saga continues! Will he stay or will he go? His contract will be reviewed midweek, things like this are

nothing new in Serbian football. Just a few months ago the federation offered him a new contract with higher wages and now they wanted the great man to resign as they don't want to sack because this would prove costly for the federation which will have to pay him out. Its becoming a soap opera!

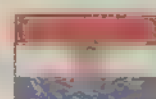
The Jelen SuperLiga finally got underway and defending Champions Partizan Belgrade go off the a winning start. The 'black and whites' defeated newly promoted Indija 2:1 with goals from Cleo and Petrovic. Partizan has not lost a match so far this season and this is a great boost for them ahead of the Champions League Qualifiers against Anderlecht which everyone is eagerly anticipating.

Red Star Belgrade under the guidance of caretaker manager Aleksandar Kris-

tic failed to find the goal in a stalemate against Smederevo. Despite playing attacking football which lacked a final pass and a decent shot the coach insists he won't change anything in his sides style of play. Red Star has had a poor start to the season and its fans cannot be happy with the way it's panned out after a promising pre season.

In other matches, OFK Beograd got all three points in a 1:0 victory over Metalac thanks to a stoppage time winner by Montenegrin Kecojovic. Borac and Javor shared the points following Odita's goal in the 57' minute which cancelled out Knezevic's opener.

Vojvodina kicks off its new campaign against Jagodina while Rad take on Cukaricki and Hajduk face newly promoted Sloboda Sevojno.



Croatia
Caretaker manager Sreten Cuk got off to a winning start with Dinamo

as they came from behind to defeat Karlovac 4:2 in Zagreb. A Sammir double and goals to Karamaric and new signing Ante Rukavina put Dinamo back in the winning circles. The name of the new manager is not known but many are saying former goalkeeper and current Under 21 manager Drazen Ladice looks like the most likely candidate.

While Dinamo are suffering a crisis, Hajduk are well and truly reborn. The 'Whites' thumped Inter in Zaprasic 5:0 with goals to Sharbini, Tomasov, Cop and a double from Ante Vukusic.

Hajduk share top spot with Rijeka and Zagreb, Rijeka drew with Varteks in the derby of the round 1.1 while Zagreb defeated Sibenik away 1:0. Newly promoted Split secured another win as they impressively put three past with no reply against Slaven Belupo.

There was two goalless draws between Osijek and Lokomotiva and between Zadar and Cibalia.

Dinamo's Ivorian striker Sammir leads the scorers charts with four goals after four rounds.

Euro Scene with Alex Luttrell

European season kicks off with a bang

English Premier League:

Welcome back to the Barclays Premier League is all that can be said after Saturday night hosted the first match day of the 2010/2011 season. Several encounters made the commencement of 19th season an astonishing one at that, showing why the English play host to the best league in the world.

The night began with Tottenham showing Manchester City that money cannot buy happiness, keeping the Sky Blues to a nil-all draw at White Hart Lane. Then, newly promoted Blackpool upset Wigan away in a fantastic welcome to the Premier League but fellow newcomers West Bromwich Albion were not so lucky, being predictably trounced by Chelsea at Stamford Bridge.

Firstly, White Hart Lane may have played host to a nil-nil draw between Tottenham and Manchester City, but the match indicated two things: Manchester City need to work on their team chemistry and Tottenham their finishing.

Although, this may be a bit critical of Tottenham as Roberto Mancini's decision to drop Shay Given for new England number one Joe Hart turned out to be a wise one. Hart kept out five spectacular scoring opportunities from Tottenham in a spectacular first-half display.

With such signings as David Silva, Yaya Toure and Aleksandar Kolarov all starting on debut for City, it still took 37 minutes for the Sky Blues to have their first real chance on goal thanks to a low, defense splitting shot from Yaya Toure being saved comfortably by Heurello Gomes.

This was because Tottenham showed much more intensity all over their attacking half. Shots from Jermaine Defoe, Tom Huddlestone, Benoit Assou-Ekotto and Gareth Bale in the first half hour were all spectacularly deflected, tapped over the bar and even held by City keeper Joe Hart, who proved to Mancini why he is England's number one. Tottenham's dominant tempo in the first 45 could not be transferred to the second as chances were slim from both ends.

Over at Stamford Bridge, a hat-trick



A mistake by Liverpool keeper Pepe Reina allows Arsenal to salvage a 1-1 draw against a Reds side who have Joe Cole sent off on his Premier League debut.

from Didier Drogba helped show the competition that the title will be hard to take from Chelsea this season, smashing newcomers West Bromwich Albion 6-0.

Florent Malouda opened on the sixth minute from close range. It took another 40 till Drogba opened his tally for 2010 on the edge of half-time with a phenomenal 25 yard free kick that thundered into the top right, leaving a Baggies keeper, a diving Scott Carson, helpless.

In the second half the flood gates opened with Drogba hitting a second in the 55th, another spectacular shot from the same spot as his first half free kick, this time rocketing into the bottom left leaving Carson with no chance.

Frank Lampard opened his scoring in the 63rd after Ashley Cole split the defense and centered Lampard who capitalised.

Drogba completed his tally five minutes later after scrappy Bromwich defenders failed to clear their lines as the ball fell to the striker's feet where he knocked it in casually. Malouda finished the onslaught with his second in stoppage time to cap off a strong message to the rest of the title contenders of the Premier League.

The news was not as bleak for newly promoted Blackpool who made their debut in the Barclays Premier League a win demolishing a poor performing Wigan squad away at JJB Stadium. Gary Taylor-Fletcher scored the first goal for Blackpool in the 16th.

This was followed by a double from Marlon Harewood in five minutes towards the end of the first 45 and Alex Baptiste completed the victory in the 75th and capped off a fantastic performance for Blackpool for their first time in the top flight since 1971.

Aston Villa took control of West Ham at Villa Park, thanks to goals from Stewart Downing, Stilian Petrov and a spectacular strike from James Milner into the bottom right. The win draws the woes away from Martin O'Neill's resignation earlier in the week.

Elsewhere, Blackburn defeated Everton 1-0 at home, Sunderland had to endure a fight back from Birmingham, drawing 2-2 after Captain Lee Cattermole was sent off. Bolton drew nil-all with Fulham and Wolves were too good for Stoke, winning 2-1 after a spectacular free kick from David Jones.

SPL:

The 13th Scottish Premier League season also commenced on Saturday night and heavy weights Celtic opened the season with a convincing 1-0 win in the early match away to Inverness.

A goal from Paddy McCourt in the 56th was enough to seal the victory. The win was the light at the end of the tunnel for a demoralized Celtic after their 4-2 aggregate loss to Braga in Champions League qualifying a fortnight ago.

In other matches, a phenomenal hat-trick of penalties from Paul Hartley gave Aberdeen the upper hand against Hamilton with a 4-0 thumping at home. The other goal came from Alexander Diamond.

Rangers were too good for Kilmarnock, winning 2-1 at home thanks to a 16th minute goal from Kenny Miller and a 57th minute strike from Steven Naismith. Kilmarnock's Jamie Hamill pulled back a penalty on the hour mark, but Rangers held on for the win.

Elsewhere, Hearts drew 1-1 with St. Johnstone and St. Mirren also saw out the same 1-1 result with Dundee United.

Ligue 1:

Week two of the French Ligue 1 saw a few close encounters, comebacks and complete come from behind victories, which made for an exciting Saturday in France.

Marseille travelled to Stade Nungesser on Saturday where they hoped to take their first win of the season, after a devastating loss to newly promoted Caen 2-1 in the opened week of the season last week.

It took 47 minutes for Valenciennes to break the deadlock thanks to a Gael Danic goal. This opened the floodgates, as Gregory Pujol doubled in quick succession in the 53rd and 62nd putting Marseille in all sorts and 3-0 down.

However, a spirited fight back seemed on the cards for the Sky Blues of France when Taye Taiwo pulled back a penalty in the 82nd as Marseille gained momentum and Andre Ayew put another ball in the back of the net in the 85th. Despite the momentum shift, Marseille left their goals too late and Valenciennes held on for a 3-2 win.

Saint-Etienne and Sochaux also saw out an exact replica of the Marseille-Valenciennes match, with Saint-Etienne going 3-0 up thanks to a 6th minute disastrous own goal from David Sauget. It took till the 57th before Loic Perin netted and turned the game on its head, with a double coming in the 64th.

However, the next ten minutes the game turned again, with Ryad Boudibou scoring for Sochaux in the 66th and Marvin Martin doubling up a minute later. But, the spectacular come back was not to be and finished as the Valenciennes-Marseille game did; 3-2.

In another close match, Nice came from 1-0 behind away to Lorient to win 2-1 thanks to a 69th minute strike from Loic Remy, who is rumoured at many English Premier League clubs.

In other games, Rennes defeated Nancy 3-0 away, Brest drew with Auxerre 1-1 and Arles-Avignon also saw out a 1-1 score sheet with Lens.

A to Z in the week leading up to the Copa Libertadores 2nd leg final and everything else in between already in the month of August.

Alecsandro of Internacional ultimately cost Ricardo Gomes his job with Sao Paulo. By losing their Libertadores semifinal to fellow Brazilian side Inter of Porto Alegre on the away goals rule, the Brazilian giant decided on Friday not to renew Ricardo's contract, which had automatically expired on their elimination from South America's premier club competition. It was a tight finish with Sao Paulo beating Inter 2-1 on Thursday but going out to striker Alecsandro's goal at their Morumbi home having lost the away leg 1-0 the previous week.

Bolivia rallied to a draw at home against Colombia as Roberto Galindo's equaliser in the 63rd minute earned Bolivia a 1-1 draw in its friendly international last Wednesday. Carlos Bacca scored in the 37th for the Colombians, giving the visitors an important early lead at the high-altitude venue.

The friendly, played in the Bolivian capital, which is located at 3,600 meters (11,900 feet) always presents problems for visiting players. Colombia tried to neutralize the advantage by picking players who play at high-altitude venues in Colombia or abroad.

Cienciano, the 2003 Nissan Copa Sudamericana winning Peruvian first division side based in the mystic city of Cuzco has suffered an embarrassing story. One of its players was sentenced to seven years in prison on Thursday for helping thieves steal money from his employing club, Cienciano two years ago. Cesar Cuchumani, a 30-year-old who played in midfield for Cienciano between 2001-08, helped thieves who stole \$84,500 meant for players' wages, court sources in the Andean city of Cuzco said.

Ceahuante helped Cienciano beat Argentina's River Plate in the final of the Copa Sudamericana in 2003 to lift Peru's first international trophy. The club have fallen on hard times and are in debt to their players, who raise money organising car raffles.

Diego Armando Maradona is still of course in the headlines as Juan Sebastián Verón broke a month-long silence to criticize almost every aspect of his coaching during the World Cup. The former Manchester United and Inter Milan midfielder said he was puzzled why Maradona benched him during the World Cup. He said this contradicted what Maradona told him before the World Cup—that Verón should be the team's playmaker.

"One moment he told me he wanted me to be the Xavi of the team," Verón said, referring to Xavi Hernández, the playmaking midfielder for World Cup winner Spain. "Then you see yourself outside and not playing, and this hurts." Verón, who has represented Argentina since 1996, said he hoped eventually to speak privately with Maradona about his tactical decisions.

Ezequiel Miralles, star goalscorer of Colo-Colo has expressed his desire to leave the club. He declared his intentions of defending Brazilian club Corinthians signalling also his desire to play in the Brazilian domestic championship. The Sao Paulo-based club, the "Timão" and also the club Ronaldo phes his trade offered the Chilean giant a sum of US\$1.3 million and 50% of the clearance for the transfer. Colo-Colo did not find it attractive at all as they only wish to sell completely. A counter-offer is expected.

Fluminense scored twice in the first 20 minutes to beat Gremio of Porto Alegre 2-1 last Sunday, extending its unbeaten streak to 10 matches and staying atop the Brazilian league. Midfielder Mariano opened the scoring at Olimpico Stadium with a free kick in the 17th minute and striker Emerson doubled the lead in the 19th after getting past two defenders inside the penalty area. Gremio's lone goal came via striker André Lima in the 89th.

Led by three-time Brazilian champion Muncy Ramalho, Fluminense hasn't lost since a 1-0 setback against Corinthians on May 23. The 1984 national champion



Valdivia

has won four of its last five matches. Two-time champion Gremio is winless in eight rounds, and Sunday's home loss cost coach Silas his job. The team remains only 18th in the 20-club standings, inside relegation zone. Fluminense got its league-leading ninth win despite playing a man down from the 62nd after midfielder Fernando picked up his second yellow card. The Rio de Janeiro club also was without former Chelsea midfielder Deco, who was signed on Saturday but is not yet fit to play.

Guadalajara have endured a journey over time and space to reach the final of the Copa Libertadores. First, because they are outsiders in South America's equivalent of the Champions League, Mexico is in North America with CONCACAF and the distance between Mexico City and Buenos Aires, for example, is further than that between London and Mumbai. Guadalajara and Porto Alegre, home city of final opponents Internacional of Brazil, are even further apart. So far apart geographically, Chivas and Internacional in the final are also poles apart philosophically. Chivas are representatives of Mexican nationalism. Internacional, as the name suggests, are an open church.

The "Chivas" are in a different hemisphere from their opponents in this campaign - Velez Sarsfield of Argentina, Libertad of Paraguay, Universidad de Chile, and now Internacional in the final of the Copa. The Mexicans, then have clocked up plenty of air miles in the quest to become the first team from their country to win the Libertadores. Chivas were unable to stage their match at home. No alternative venue could be found, so Conmebol cancelled the match and decided that the tie would be played over one leg, to be held in Brazil.

They had to get through the first two knockout rounds without five of their stars who were preparing for South Africa - keeper Luis Michel, defender Jonny Magallon and strikers Javier Hernandez, Alberto Medina and Adolfo Bautista. Hernandez, of course, is now scoring his goals for Manchester United. The rest were back for the semi-final against Universidad de Chile and will be available for this week's home leg and then the long trip down to Porto Alegre for the return match this coming Thursday 19th of August AEST.

But Chivas will not be making the longest trip of all. Even if they beat Internacional they will not feature in the Arab Emirates this December in the World Club Cup. As outsiders, they cannot represent South America in the annual competition. Whatever happens over the two legs, that honour will belong to the Brazilians.

Harold Mayne-Nicholls, president of the Chilean FA has lead the FIFA delegate inspection team with several reports from Chilean media quoting him highlighting Australia is "prepared to organize the 2022 World Cup", after completing his duty a few weeks ago. The head inspector visited stadium, accommodation and infrastructure in Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane.

Mayne-Nicholls has returned to Santiago also a happy man after re-signing coach Marcelo Bielsa for its National Team last week, a note mentioned in this article of last week's edition.

Internacional came from a goal down to secure a 2-1 away win over Mexican gi-

ants Guadalajara in the first leg of the Copa Libertadores final. Guadalajara took the lead against the run of play on the stroke of half-time through a neat header from Mexico international Adolfo Bautista from the edge of the 18-yard box. It was an undeserved lead for the hosts, with Inter having had the better of the first-half chances and hitting the post twice through Kleber and Alecsandro. But the Brazilian side, who won the title in 2006, turned the match on its head after the interval.

Guiliano equalised with another header in the 72nd minute to silence the home fans at the beautiful new Omnilife Stadium in Guadalajara in the federal state of Jalisco, and four minutes later Bolívar gave Celso Roth's side the lead from an Andres D'Alessandro cross that "Indio" Antonio de Lima sent back into the box. The result ensured Inter will head into next Wednesday's sell-out return match knowing it will be crowned champion if it avoids defeat in Porto Alegre. Guiliano commented: "I'm happy to be blessed with this goal, but I'm even happier because of the way the team played this match. It was amazing."

The region where Inter hails from in the south of Brazil, is one of mass European immigration. Their big local rivals, Gremio, were originally restricted to Germans. Internacional were for everyone, regardless of origin. But like Chivas, Inter's path to the final has hardly been conventional. They reached the semi-finals by eliminating reigning champions Estudiantes of Argentina - and promptly rewarded Uruguayan coach Jorge Fossati with the sack.

The advantage, though, is still with Internacional. That extra-time, if needed, will take place on their home ground. This is another part of the price paid by the Mexicans for their invitation to the Libertadores - they cannot stage the second leg of the final, which must take place on South American soil.

Juan Roman Riquelme has finally signed a four-year contract with Boca Juniors. The new contract was announced last Tuesday, but it took Riquelme two days later until Thursday to sign. The 32-year-old Riquelme's penchant for attracting controversy affected the deal. Word leaked out as the contract was offered that the Boca board of directors was split evenly over offering Riquelme a new deal. The tie was broken by Boca president Jorge Amel. Amel confirmed Riquelme will receive \$5 million over the four-year contract, and a portion of the proceeds from a farewell match if he elects to retire.

"It would have been ideal if this has been worked out in the first meeting," Riquelme said on Thursday. "Some negotiations take less time, some take more. The important thing is I will be a Boca player for four more years and I hope we can win many things." Riquelme said he had offers from other clubs including Racing, Independiente and Estudiantes. Riquelme said he would return to the playing field when he feels fully recovered from left knee surgery in the off-season. He offered no timeframe. Boca is at home on Saturday against Racing Club.

Kaká has admitted he played "under injections" for both Real Madrid and Brazil during this year's World Cup in South Africa. After a routine pre-season check by Madrid doctors discovered a problem, Dr. Marc

Martens performed arthroscopic surgery on Kaká's left knee on Aug. 5 then claimed the player put his career in jeopardy by playing at the World Cup.

But Kaká denied it in an interview published by Spanish newspaper Marca last Friday. "I played in pain in a lot of games, not just with the national team, but also with Real Madrid," he said. "And not just my knee, but other parts of my body, too." Ouch!

Lionel Messi says he didn't want Diego Maradona to leave as coach of the national team and had thought the football great would be kept on. Maradona said: "I was betrayed". In his first public comments since last week's announcement that Maradona's contract would not be renewed, Messi expressed support for his former coach but also looked to the future.

Maylson, the bright young Gremio midfielder has responded positively to reports that Portuguese outfit Benfica are pondering a move for his services. The 21-year-old was recently associated with a move to the Iberian club by A Bola, and it is a switch he would be more than willing to make.

"I know there was a report. I heard that," he confirmed to Terra. "But I do not know much more. If it works, it would be a dream realised. All the boys want to play in Europe, at a great team. And Benfica is a great club."

Neymar scored in his national team debut, Alexandre Pato added a goal late in the first half and new-look Brazil rolled over the United States 2-0 Tuesday night in the first match for both nations since a disappointing World Cup. Neymar, the 18-year-old Santos sensation, had just switched with Robinho and moved from the left flank to the center. Andre Santos came down the left side and crossed, and Neymar beat Jonathan Bornstein and sent a header inside Tim Howard's left post in the 29th minute.

Pato doubled the lead in first-half injury time when Ramires' through ball split Bornstein and Carlos Bocanegra, and the 20-year-old AC Milan forward came in alone on Howard for the easy goal.

The five-time world champions used a 4-3-3 attack-minded formation. Robinho, one of four holdovers from the World Cup roster, slid the ball past backup goalkeeper Brad Guzan in the 53rd minute but it clanked off the far post. Guzan made a nice stop on Neymar's angled shot in the 61st and another diving stop on Neymar in the 70th, two minutes before the forward departed. Paulo Henrique Ganso hit a post from just outside the arc in the 78th, and Guzan made a diving stop with his right hand on Carlos Eduardo in the 83rd.

Olympic Games winning coach Sergio Batista is the current interim coach of Argentina. He must have felt the warmth of a healthy pat on the back from striker Lionel Messi after leading the side to a 1-0 friendly win over Ireland in Dublin after his first game in charge last Wednesday. Sergio Batista has expressed his desire to retain the job on a full-time basis through to the 2014 World Cup in Brazil, not just for the rest of the year, and his cause will be helped by Messi's glowing assessment of the former central midfielder.

The bearded commanding defensive midfielder in the 1986 World Cup-winning side, fielded a balanced midfield with plenty of back-up for captain Javier Mascherano from Fernando Gago, overlooked for South Africa, and Ever Banega. All three were in Batista's Olympic team, along with Wednesday's scorer Angel Di Maria and the recalled fullback Pablo Zabaleta.

The confident Batista believes in his chances of getting the job, saying in a recent interview with the sports daily Oie: "I hope everything is taken into account, what I did at the Olympic Games and the work with the national juniors."

Paraguay's Enrique Vera scored in the eighth minute and Cristian Riveros added another in the 73rd as Paraguay beat Costa Rica 2-0 last Wednesday in an international friendly played in tribute to Salvador Cabañas. It was Paraguay's first match since reaching the quarterfinals of the World Cup, where it lost 1-0 to eventual champion

Spain last month in South Africa.

The game was played to honor Paraguay forward Cabañas, who survived a gunshot wound to the head on Jan. 25 in a Mexico City bar. He was contracted to Mexican club America and, before the shooting, had been expected to star for Paraguay in the World Cup in South Africa. Cabañas has been undergoing treatment at a rehabilitation clinic in the Argentine capital Buenos Aires. He was well replaced by Osvaldo Martínez of Mexican club Monterrey. Salvador Cabañas is still undergoing treatment at a rehabilitation clinic in the Argentine capital Buenos Aires.

Quiroga was the surname chanted on Saturday in Valparaíso's Playa Ancha stadium before Colo-Colo scored through its fellow Argentine striker Lucas Wjchez over Santiago Wanderers by the minimum scoreline, 1-0. Missing up to six key players, Matias Quiroga was instrumental as Colo-Colo scored through a cross by Chilean international José Pedro Fuenzalida - who missed out on selection for South Africa's World Cup two months ago that was followed by a gallant header that hit the right post by Corinthians' interest and target Ezequiel Miralles only to find his countryman free in the box for a gentle tap-in.

Reinaldo Rueda has been appointed coach of Ecuador a week after he stepped down as Honduras boss, the president of the Ecuadorian Football Federation (FEF) announced. Luis Chiriboga said that the 53-year-old Colombian - who won praise for guiding Honduras to only its second FIFA World Cup finals this year but then saw it crash out in the first round - had been tasked with qualifying Ecuador for the 2014 World Cup finals to be hosted by Brazil. Rueda replaces Sixto Vizcete, who failed to get Ecuador to its third successive World Cup finals after appearing at the 2002 and 2006 editions reaching the second round in the latter one.

Santos says it could report Chelsea to FIFA for allegedly trying to lure striker Neymar without talking to the Brazilian club first. Santos president Luis Alvaro Ribeiro says Chelsea is insisting on reaching out to Neymar for transfer talks even though the club has already denied an offer made for the 18-year-old striker.

Neymar and his father reportedly met with Chelsea officials after the striker helped Brazil beat the United States in a friendly on Tuesday. Ribeiro told Brazilian media on Thursday the club may ask FIFA to intervene against Chelsea. He has said Santos doesn't want to sell the player, but Chelsea can have him by paying the \$35 million (\$45 million) buyout clause. Chelsea's initial offer reportedly reached \$20 million (\$26 million).

Tim Vickery, the much-respected English journalist based in Rio noted a recurring issue on his BBC blog online. On his latest edition he highlights the importance of Mexican football to the Latin American region evident with Guadalajara's brilliant campaign to the final of the Copa Libertadores. Worth a read.

Universidad de Chile have signed up Guillermo Marino from Boca Juniors to replace their departing creative midfielder Walter Montillo. Marino outlined that wishes not to be compared to Montillo and that his success a few seasons back at Boca Juniors is a feat he wishes to repeat with the Chilean giant. Meanwhile, prolific Uruguayan Carlos Bueno shall continue the Uruguayan connection in Universidad de Chile by also signing up and finishing his medical test last Monday. The now former Peñarol forward who has played in other prolific clubs with Sporting Lisbon, Paris St. Germain, Boca Juniors and lately Real Sociedad on loan in the second division has decided to stay on in South America.

Bueno has agreed on a transfer to Chilean Copa Libertadores semi-finalist Universidad de Chile and will be under another countryman in coach Gerardo Pelusso. He replaces his departing countryman Juan Manuel Olivera, moving to the big bucks in Saudi Arabia with Al Shabab and leaving giant shoes to fill with the university

The Myth of Martin O'Neill

By Leroy Robinson

When Samson, the Herculean figure, had his hair cut he lost his power. Now that Martin O'Neill has left Aston Villa, will they be significantly weaker? A 3-0 win on Saturday, against an inept West Ham United team, held few clues as to what the future may bring for the club following his departure.

The news last Monday that Martin O'Neill (MON) had resigned from his post at Aston Villa took everyone by surprise. The timing – 5 days before the start of the season – is just one strange element in the whole affair. O'Neill himself gave few clues in his parting statement as to the reasons. So, in an act of blatant speculation, I'm assuming this wasn't a calculated move by MON, and that his resignation was a spontaneous thing. A popular school of thought is that MON wanted to spend the entire transfer fee for James Milner on new signings, something which owner Randy Lerner would not allow. I can understand why O'Neill upped and left. The idea of selling one of your best players is one thing, but not using the funds to buy a replacement will make it seem like Villa are cutting their wrists and donating the blood to City.

But hold on, back up there one it'sy-bitsy minute. The proposed deal was for James Milner to go to Man City and for Stephen Ireland to go in the opposite direction. This would see Villa get £18m and the City player, valuing Milner at £26-£30million. This is a great deal for Villa. They get an international player who is only 23 and can play all over the midfield. Yes the southern Irishman does have a questionable temperament. He once got his girlfriend to lie to his international coach. The poor girl informed the Federation that Stephen Ireland's granny had died. This was news to his granny who was alive and well. It wasn't so much the lie, just the fact he made up something so completely stupid – and easily verified. Hopefully this is because he only has a brain for football.

A Slow Lerner

A few days after the events, Randy Lerner himself made a statement to the press, part of which contained this quote, as taken from Eurosport.com:

"As for explaining why Martin left, I can say only that we no longer shared a common view as to how to move forward..."

In short, they disagreed about money. One has to put all this into context. Football is a constant tug of will between fans, coaches and owners and board members. On one hand we



Martin O'Neill waves good bye to the Villa faithful only days prior to the new season commencing.

have coaches like Harry Redknapp constantly whinging about not having funds and always needing a few more players to compete

Usually the fans, with a heavy dose of suspicions of the owners, take up the coach's side. Guys like Redknapp need a strong chairman to hold him back by the collar, and maybe a muzzle to come to think of it. Other coaches, like Arsene Wenger and David Moyes, accept the financial constraints of their clubs and work within them – seeing them as something of a challenge, and as something not worth complaining about because they cannot control them. It seems like MON wasn't willing to go the Wenger and Moyes route, which is his prerogative. The problem is it is easy to spend someone else's money. We see what happens when owners behave like fans and throw money around that the club hasn't got – we get Leeds United and Portsmouth. This off-season Villa has been conspicuous by their absence in the transfer market and it's not by accident. They need to sell to balance the books.

Where Did The Money Go?

MON must have been well aware of the financial situation at Villa, and the need to tighten the ship. How do I know this? Because, courtesy of a few clicks, I found out online. According to the Guardian Villa have been making losses year on year and have a wage bill of £71m, 85% of the club's

turnover. This, if you didn't know it, is the way to ruin a business. In fact, looking at O'Neill's history in the transfer market, one would say that his transfer policy contributed to the very situation that led to his resignation. Let's look at the major comings and goings throughout his tenure. (All amounts approximate)

His major sales include players like Gary Cahill (Sold to Bolton - £4m), Liam Ridgwell (Sold to Birmingham - £2m), Steven Davis (Fulham - £4m), Aaron Hughes (Fulham - £1m), Luke Moore (West Brom £3.5m), Thomas Sorensen (Released), Shaun Maloney (Celtic - £1m), Gareth Barry (Man City - £12m), Zlat Knight (Bolton - £4m).

Major signings include Stilian Petrov (£6.5m), John Carew (swap for Milan Baros), Ashley Young (£9.65m), Nigel Reo-Coker (£8m), Marlon Harewood (£3m), Curtis Davies (£7.5m), Steve Sidwell (£5m), Brad Friedel (£2m), Nicky Shorey (£3m), Luke Young (£5m), Carlos Cuellar (£7m), James Milner (£12m), Emile Heskey (£3.5m), Stewart Downing (£10m), Fabian Delph (£6m), Habib Beye (£2m), Stephen Warnock (£6m), James Collins (£5m), Richard Dunne (£6m).

He spent something like £80m more than he brought into the club. Ok, there's no doubt O'Neill has improved Villa and is an excellent coach who will get job offers elsewhere. But up to this point he seemed to get all the backing he needed, and the squad

Villa has is in no small part due to the financial backing from Randy Lerner. The American has been in charge of Villa for four years and must have been alarmed at the massive debt and wages, especially given the lack of a trophy at Villa in MON's reign. Some suggest that MON's ambition outstripped Randy Lerner's. Complete rubbish. Ambition means having clear goals and working towards them. Every company has ambition but ambition doesn't require you to live beyond your means and accumulate debt to get there. It is a steady process of gradual achievement – and Villa is heading in the right direction – with or without the Irishman. O'Neill's actions smack of spitting out the dummy like a spoilt child who can't get his own way, and show complete disregard for the club's plight. Did Alex Ferguson grumble when the £80m United got for Ronaldo wasn't spent? Did Moyes moan about not having all the £25m City paid them for Joleon Lescott? No.

Now, it may be that MON was going to get part of that money to spend, or maybe none. It doesn't matter. We live in the real world. A world of debt, of profit and loss – and villa are making losses. Lerner would be negligent if he ignored the debt and let his coach run up the wage bill further. And it's not like other managers don't have such constraints. When you think of Wenger at Arsenal and Moyes at Everton – both more established and longer tenured –

you'd have to ask yourself what makes MON so precious that he shouldn't be working under similar financial constraints than these guys?

But it's time for Villa to put Delilah behind them and move forward. They need to choose the next manager carefully. Some say they should sign a big name, because big names attract big name players. Rubbish. The last thing Villa needs is big name players with big wages.

Some say if Kevin McDonald wins the next few games he could be a surprise appointment. The success rate of EPL assistants after being promoted to the top job from within is pretty poor so I expect Villa to look for a chief and not promote the Indian. MON has left a good squad and the next coach should be able to get them into the top six. One thing is certain: the next manager of Villa will not have the same powers and access to Lerner's wallet as O'Neill enjoyed.

A Home For Two Strays

On a not so lighter note spare a thought for Craig Bellamy and Shay Given at Manchester City.

Given intimated he'd be looking for a transfer if he wasn't first choice in the game against Spurs. Poor guy. He could be seen on the bench with a resigned smirk on his grill after one of Joe Hart's several man of the match saves.

There can be no way back for Shay at City if Hart is the number one, especially after his comments. At 34 he still has a lot to offer the league and has been one of the best 'keepers around.

Spare an even bigger thought for Bellamy. One of City's better players last year with double figures in goals and assists and his reward is not getting a squad number and being told he can leave. After playing only 80 minutes of football in pre-season Craig saw the writing on the wall but that doesn't make the taste any less bitter. I feel for Craig. Last season he lived up to the hype that has followed him throughout his career and now becomes surplus to requirements. How utterly ironic. He wants to go to Spurs, according to reports, but City will not let him go to a direct top 4 rival. Where does that leave not only Craig but also Shay? I have the answer – Newcastle United. Both played there before and both will relish playing in front of 52,000 people. If City donates both on loan it'll be for a good cause, keeping the Magpies in the EPL and though they won't be competing for honours on Tyneside they'll feel they're at a bigger club than City.

Sources: The Guardian, Eurosport

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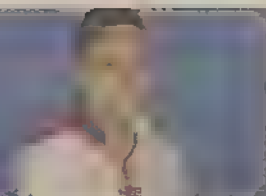
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Can anyone stop The Chels?

As I write, the 2010-2011 English Premier League season is just hours away from kicking off, and it promises to be one of the most exciting league seasons seen on these shores. Chelsea, the champions from last season, are strong favourites with most bookmakers to win back to back titles, but are they really the stand out favourites for the championship?

Well quite simply put yes they are. In recent weeks I have written about title contenders Arsenal, Manchester City and Tottenham, and have argued that they do all have a shot at finishing top of the league this season. And of course, last years second best team, Manchester United, will always be in title contention. But having said that, with the first ball to be kicked in anger just hours away, most people, myself included, simply cannot see past Chelsea becoming Premier League Champions yet again.

Chelsea can be described as a team which has several strengths but few glaring weaknesses. In recent seasons they have proved to be a force in all facets of the game, and they have shown a will and conviction to be the best that has only really been matched by their closest contenders Manchester United.

If we are to compare the current Chelsea team, and their chances of winning the title, with the team which completed the double last year, then the best place to start would be to compare the two squads. Over this transfer window Chelsea have lost several players which have instrumental in many of their recent successes. Joe Cole has left for Liverpool, Deco and Ballack have put their underwhelming English careers to bed and have left the country for pastures new, and Ricardo Carvalho has joined up with former Chelsea boss Jose Mourinho at Real Madrid. In response Chelsea have brought in just Yossi Benayoun from Liverpool and Brazilian Ramires from Benfica.

On the surface it would appear that they have lost some squad depth, yet actually they have replaced quantity with quality. As much as many Chelsea and England fans would like you to believe that he was still in his prime, Joe Cole has not had a good season for several years now. Much of this



Double delight: Chelsea ran away with the silverware in the end last season, and have already pick up where they left off with a 6-0 romp against West Brom to kick things off for 2010/11.

has been due to what seems to be a conveyor belt of injuries, but the fact remains that his impact for both club and country over the last two years has been minimal, so his loss should mean little. And then there is Deco and Ballack, who came with glowing reputations but delivered little in their whole time at the London club, and whose international teams are actually better without them being there, as the Germans proved at the World Cup without their captain.

And what Chelsea have replaced these three midfielders with is two players of real quality and promise. Yossi Benayoun proved at West Ham that he can perform week in and week out, and at Liverpool he proved that he could have a real impact coming off the bench. Many times it was only he and Steven Gerrard who carried any attacking threat for the underperforming Merseyside giants last season, and although he will not start too much I can see him coming off the bench to help Chelsea unlock stubborn defences with his intelligence and clever movement. In Ramires Chelsea have acquired a much heralded young tal-

ent, and he will bring tireless energy to what was starting to become an aging midfield. With Ramires, Lampard, Essien and Mikel Chelsea have four top midfielders, who if rotated correctly could dominate the league this year.

The loss of Carvalho could be more impactful to the Chelsea team, as he and John Terry have been one of the best defensive partnerships that the Premier League has seen. Yet in Alex there is a ready made replacement, as he played much of last season in place of Carvalho, and has proved himself to be good enough to play as a starter for the top team in the country. And Chelsea still have two of the best full backs in England, Cole and Ivanovic, as well as one of the best goalkeepers in the world in Petr Cech.

So all in all I think this year's squad is actually better than last years, which suggests that they indeed should be favourites for the title. They still look strong defensively, their midfield is shaping up to be the best in the country, and they still have all their attacking talent which was so prominent last year. I do feel that Chelsea could be a

little sparse when it comes to goals up front, but I also thought that last year when they proceeded to score over 100 goals.

In comparison, both United and Arsenal have also only made small changes to their squads, which implies that there is no reason to say that they could challenge Chelsea any better than they did last time round. And although both Liverpool and Manchester City have made major changes, the impact of these alterations still remains to be seen. So with that being said it is completely right that Chelsea should be favourites to win the title.

However, it's not all as simple as that. Chelsea are, and deserve to be favourites going into the new Premier League season. Yet in no way do I believe it to be a forgone conclusion that Chelsea win back to back titles. Last season demonstrated that the gap between the top few clubs, Chelsea, Manchester United, Arsenal and Liverpool and the clubs just below them, Manchester City, Tottenham, Aston Villa and Everton, is getting increasingly smaller. And for me it would not be beyond the realms of possibility

for more than just the usual suspects to challenge for the Premier League crown. And with more people challenging at the top the odds of Chelsea successfully defending their title become lessened. And, as any fan of the Premier League knows, any time United fail to win the title they always come back next season stronger, hungrier and better.

I also earlier pointed out that the Chelsea squad is not as deep as it was last year. I feel that a few injuries to key men, mainly Drogba, Lampard, or Cech, could have drastic consequences for the reigning champions, as their main replacements right now seem to be relatively untested, inexperienced youngsters who almost certainly will not be able to perform at the level of the men that they are replacing. Of course injuries could be a factor for any team, but in my opinion they could affect this Chelsea team more than if it happened to their main rivals.

And of course there remains the distraction of the Champions League. Chelsea owner Roman Abramovich has made no secret of the fact that he wants this title more than any other, and has specifically brought in coaches to attain this prize for his club. If Chelsea have success in Europe it could prove a distraction from league duties, and with so many potential competitors for the championship it is a strong possibility that Chelsea could have to favour Champions League glory over retaining their Premier League crown, as it will be very difficult to maintain dominance in both competitions.

In summary, Chelsea are, and completely should be, favourites to retain their title this year. Their squad is better than what they had last season, and their new additions look like they could make a massive impact. Yet this season should prove to be the most competitive Premier League season in history, and with so many games to play, with so many distractions, there is no way that anyone can predict definitively who will win this years league title. All I can predict is that it's going to be really exciting finding out.

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Stalemate at Sorrento

By Ashley Morrison

Fourth placed Floreat Athena took on fifth placed Sorrento at Perry Doyle Reserve with both sides looking to cement their finals positions. Floreat however still had a remote chance of claiming a top two finish. Sadly the game did not reflect the lofty aspirations of the supporters as neither 'keeper was forced to make a genuine save.

Floreat threatened first when in the seventh minute Adam Bachiller's run through the heart of the Sorrento defence was blocked and the ball fell to Johny Mirco, but his shot went straight at the keeper, Aspden.

Floreat were definitely playing the better football for the first twenty minutes but in and around the box, they over elaborated which allowed Sorrento to get numbers behind the ball and snuff out any scoring opportunities. When Sorrento attacked there was no support for an isolated Todd Hamwell.

On the half hour Sorrento carved out their best chance of the half, after Brodie Martin, squared the ball from the left to Glen Thomas, but his long range effort whistled wide.

With the last kick of the game Vujacic tried an outrageous chip for Floreat, but Aspden was alert to the danger and plucked it easily from the air.

Often after a tight first half games open up in the second half as teams look for a goal to break the deadlock, but in this game that never really happened. How-

ever it was definitely Sorrento's defence who had to work the harder.

In the 50th minute Neiderberger broke free and looked as if he must test the 'keeper, but Cam recovered, threw his body on the line and blocked as he shot. Eight minutes later it looked as if Sorrento had broken the deadlock against the run of play, Morgan found Hayton in space on the right, and he played a wonderfully weighted cross to the back post, where Hamwell rose and looped his header over the advancing Dunn, in goal for Floreat. It looked as if the ball was going to arc its way into the back of the net, but Ante Kovacevic wound back the clock and appeared from nowhere to clear on the goal line.

Floreat continued to threaten, but Sorrento's defence was unrelenting. Shane Webb blocking an effort from Neiderberger after Mikulic found him in space, and again after Migas and Mirco had combined to set up Barrera. Thomas also made a timely interception when Mirco tried to curl a shot through a crowded box.

Even when Sorrento were reduced to ten men when Lamplough was given a second yellow card, Floreat never looked like breaking through the solid Sorrento defence, and with one eye on the cup final next week, and a finals place secure, maybe the scoreless draw was an acceptable result.

In other games the Western Knights reclaimed top spot, as Perth play on Sunday following a 2-1 win over relegation threatened Swan United. This defeat and Cockburn's 3-1 win over BCU Joondalup sees them tied at the bottom of the table

on 19 points with Cockburn and just two rounds to go; Only one of the teams facing the drop to Division one.

Stirling Lions had the perfect start against Inglewood when Ludovic Boi gave them the lead after just 8 minutes, but Inglewood fought back to take a 2-1 lead, which had they held on could have seen Stirling's title hopes come to an end, but import Shane Robinson popped up with a penalty in the 93rd minute.

Armadale played hosts to Mandurah City and the visitors started the afternoon in a dream fashion, 2-0 up after half an hour. However Brad Hassell has created a great fighting spirit down at Armadale and they may be inconsistent but they are certainly no easy beats. Two goals in two minutes saw they pull level by the 37th minute. They went in at half time 3-2 ahead thanks to a second goal from James Robinson. Jeff Bright pulled one back for the visitors to make it all square and then in the last ten minutes Armadale scored two more to come out 5-3 victors.

Next weekend the league season is put on hold for the State League Cup Final which sees defending Cup holders Floreat Athena take on Stirling Lions at Frank Drago Reserve the home of Bayswater City.

Bayswater City are themselves involved in a tight tussle at the top of Division one to gain promotion back to the Premier League. Bunbury Forum Force sit top of the league on goal difference with both teams on 46 points and three games to play.

NEXT ROUND

Sat 28 Aug 3PM
ECU Joondalup v Sorrento
ECU Joondalup

Sat 28 Aug 3PM Western Knights v Armadale
Nash Field

Sat 28 Aug 3PM
Inglewood United v Cockburn City
The Pitsa Stadium

Sat 28 Aug 3PM
Perth SC v Swan United
BCU Stadium - Dorrer Gardens

28 Aug 6PM
Mandurah City v Stirling Lions
Mandurah City

Sun 29 Aug 3PM
Balcatta v Floreat Athena
Stirling Lions Reserve

DIVISION ONE LADDER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Bayswater City	19	15	1	3	73	8	65	36
2 Bayswater City	13	11	1	3	67	23	44	36
3 Bayswater City	14	3	2	4	46	22	24	11
4 Floreat Athena	10	12	2	5	49	29	20	38
5 Bayswater City	19	2	0	7	44	37	7	36
6 Bayswater City	19	7	5	7	43	1	26	
7 Bayswater City	14	7	4	8	43	41	-8	25
8 Bayswater City	14	6	5	8	35	39	-4	23
9 Fremantle SC	14	3	6	10	28	50	-22	5
10 Rockingham City	14	5	0	4	16	57	-39	15
11 Ashfield	19	1	1	15	13	54	-21	10
12 Queens Park	19	2	1	16	24	73	-49	7

WA LADDER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Western Knights	20	11	4	5	43	25	18	37
2 Perth SC	20	11	2	7	41	35	6	35
3 Stirling Lions	20	10	5	5	32	26	6	35
4 Floreat Athena	20	9	6	5	39	24	15	33
5 Sorrento	20	8	5	7	34	37	-3	29
6 Armadale	20	8	4	8	38	37	1	28
7 Balcatta	20	8	2	10	34	42	-8	26
8 ECU Joondalup	20	6	7	7	43	44	-1	25
9 Mandurah City	20	7	3	10	31	41	-10	24
10 Inglewood United	20	6	5	9	31	42	-11	23
11 Cockburn City	20	5	4	11	32	37	-5	19
12 Swan United	20	4	7	9	25	33	-8	19

WA RESULTS

PREMIER DIVISION
Results - Saturday, 14 August 2010

First Team
Armadale 5 (J Robinson 35, 43, Watson 37, T Robinson 81, Barlow 86)
Mandurah City 3 (Zuvela 13, 30P, Bright 52);

Sorrento 0 Floreat Athena 0;

Stirling Lions 2 (Boi 8, S Robinson 90+3P)
Inglewood United 2 (Iliomanovski 29, Grant 66);

Swan United 1 (Boland 80)
Western Knights 2 (Doyle 50, Daniel Micevski 60);

Cockburn City 3 (Fealy 35, 42, Webster 62)
ECU Joondalup 1 (OG 8);

Sunday, 15 August 2010
Perth SC 1 (Onoforo 67)
Balcatta 2 (Whitehouse 52, Tataschiere 63);

Reserves
Armadale 2 Mandurah City 0, Sorrento 5
Floreat Athena 2; Stirling Lions 1 Inglewood
United 2; Swan United 3 Western Knights 0;
Cockburn City 1 ECU Joondalup 1,
Perth SC 3 Balcatta 1.

Under 18's
Armadale 4 Mandurah City 4; Sorrento 4
Floreat Athena 2; Stirling Lions 2 Inglewood
United 1; Swan United 1 Western Knights 3;
Cockburn City 0 ECU Joondalup 1,
Perth SC 3 Balcatta 0.

DIVISION ONE
Results - Saturday, 14 August 2010

First Team
Bayswater City 2 (Marulanda 9, Karpeh 90+1)
Wanneroo City 1 (McDonald 25);

Queens Park 3 (Feathers 69, Anquetil 75, Murgala 84)
Dianella White Eagles 3 (Wingell 9, 44P, Hickey 39);

Rockingham City 2 (Senior 61P, 85)
Morley-Windmills 3 (Radonovic 27, 37, 80);

Canning City 2 (Pycnum 1, Rickman 9) Gosnells City 3 (Francis 7, Twyman 52, Allen 66);

Bunbury Forum Force 4 (Rodgers 5, 18, Quinn 28, Stewart 89)
Fremantle Spirit 2 (Canzullo 73, Fearon 83);

Forrestfield 2 Ashfield 0.

Reserves
Bayswater City 0 Wanneroo City 1; Queens
Park 0 Dianella White Eagles 5; Rockingham
City 0 Morley-Windmills 4; Canning City 4 Gosnells City 1; Bunbury Forum Force 7 Fremantle
Spirit 6; Forrestfield 1 Ashfield 2.

Under 18's
Bayswater City 5 Wanneroo City 1, Queens
Park 1 Dianella White Eagles 5; Rockingham
City 3 Morley-Windmills 0; Canning City 1
Gosnells City 0; Bunbury Forum Force 2
Fremantle Spirit 1; Forrestfield 3 Ashfield 0.



Western Knights confined Swan United to the bottom of the table after a 2-1 win. PHOTO: PETER J. MULLIX

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BLACKTOWN CLINCHES GRAND FINAL BERTH

By Alex Milic

Blacktown City is the first finalist after thrashing Minor Premiers Bonnyrigg White Eagles 4:0 at the Bonnyrigg Sports Centre in the NSW Premier League Major Semi Final.

An excellent performance by Aytek Gene's men was showcased by the deadly counter attacks and excellent through balls from his midfielders. From the defence to the attack, Blacktown was superb and deservedly so are in the Grand Final.

The Demons took the lead early on though Joel Chianese following a mix up at the back from the Bonnyrigg defence, Chianese latched on to a wayward header by White Eagles defender Takushima and chipped the ball over Goalkeeper Phil Zabaks who had come off his line.

Bonnyrigg had an excellent opportunity to level proceedings but former Melbourne Victory striker Nathan Elasi didn't take advantage of the one on one with Blacktown keeper Justin Biega, shooting straight at the young keeper who had a fantastic night, showing signs of maturity beyond his 18 years.

The home side squandered another golden chance as fullback Wade Oostendorp couldn't get his head onto a fabulous Daniel Severino cross into the 16 yard box. These two misses would prove to be vital as Blacktown found a second just minutes later.

The weak Bonnyrigg defence was exploited once more as Travis Major crossed from the right side for an unmarked Chianese who had no trouble finding the net five metres out. Another defensive blunder for the side which conceded the fewest goals this season.

The White Eagles' fans were hoping for better things in the second half but yet again they were denied by poor finishing from McMaster whose close range shot found the stands instead of the net.

Blacktown was more deadly going forward and had a 3:0 lead in the 52' minute following an excellent run by Mitch Long who got past three Bonnyrigg defenders before unselfishly cutting it back to Jordan Simpson who had enough time to control the ball and get it past Zabaks. 3:0 and the Demons were heading for the Final, mind you without their best player and the League's top marksman Tolgay Ozbey who was missed the match with an injury.

White Eagles manager Brian Brown made adjustments and brought on three players but to no prevail. His side was weak at the back and didn't have the best days going forward which Blacktown took advantage of and punished the League winners dearly. Daniel Severino was the only player for the home side that made the opposing defenders work hard but he was pegged back to long range efforts and Free Kicks which failed to find the target.

Blacktown found a fourth as Bonnyrigg threw everything forward. Chris Bedzo made an intelligent run forward following a through ball and easily dispatched the ball past Zabaks on the edge of the penalty area.

Blacktown manager Aytek Gene was delighted with his teams performance.

"Bonnyrigg played really well in the



Lukaš Glavas celebrates scoring for Sydney United. PHOTO: CARLOS FURTADO/FNSW

first-half and they really troubled us," he said.

"But I'm proud of the way we played, the boys executed the game plan so I'm pretty happy."

"A lot of the boys haven't played in a grand final before."

"It's a special occasion but it means nothing if we don't win it."

On the other side Bonnyrigg manager Brian Brown was devastated with his sides performance and said his side must be positive ahead of the next match.

Not many would have fancied Blacktown to win this match but they not just won it, they did it with style! Hitting four past the best team in the league in their own backyard will give the Demons confidence to go all the way and lift the coveted Premier League title. Bonnyrigg will have one more bite at the cherry as they will take on the winner of the Minor

Semi Final between Sydney United and APIA Leichhardt.

Sydney United 2-0 APIA Leichhardt
Sydney United kept their hopes of winning the title alive with an extra-time 2-0 defeat of APIA-Leichhardt Tigers on Sunday afternoon.

The Reds, with this victory, will now face Bonnyrigg White Eagles next weekend, with the winner to face Blacktown City in the grand-final.

Sydney United had to overcome the stern challenge of APIA-Leichhardt Tigers to keep their season alive - Luka Glavas and David Zdrilic's strikes enough to end the dream run of the Leichhardt side.

Both sides created chances throughout the 90' minutes, with the Tigers going close via captain Franco Parisi and Nick Rizzo. Sydney United's best replies arrived via Luka Glavas, with Elsid Bark

houzir very lively throughout the encounter.

APIA-Leichhardt will feel very hard done by with an offside call in the 75' minute denying Anthony Hartshorn a goal. The Tigers' midfielder seemingly timed his run into the penalty-area to perfection, though the linesman's flag proved to be telling. The Tigers, continued to attack, though in the end, the brilliance of Glavas ultimately cut the Tigers legs.

The Reds striker beat the offside trap in the 112' minute to go one-on-one with Matthew Nash, before slotting home with a nice finish.

Player/coach David Zdrilic, who entered the fray in the closing stages of regular time, added a second 3' minutes from the end, starting and finishing a very swift counter-attacking move with an excellent finish.

	P	W	L	D
Bonnyrigg White Eagles (P)	22	13	6	45
Blacktown City FC	22	12	4	40
Sydney United	22	11	6	39
APIA Leichhardt Tigers	22	12	4	39
Marconi Stallions	22	11	3	36
Sutherland Sharks	22	9	4	31
Rockdale City Suns	22	6	12	30
Blacktown City	22	7	5	26
Manly United FC	22	7	4	25
South Coast Wolves	22	6	4	22
Sydney Olympic (R)	22	6	3	21
West Sydney Barons (R)	22	2	3	12

NSW PREMIER LEAGUE - FINAL SERIES:

MAJOR SEMI FINALS, FIRST GRADE:

Bonnyrigg White Eagles 0-0 Blacktown City FC 4-0 (Chianese 6/38m Jordan Simpson 52m Christopher Bedzo 82m).

Under 20s

Blacktown City FC 1-1 Sydney United 2

Minor Semi Final

Sydney United 2-0 APIA-Leichhardt Tigers 0 (0-0 after full time)

GRADE 20: Blacktown City FC-1 (Djordje Degenek 89m) Sydney United 2 (Steven Valeski 37m Aaron Sim 119m) Extra Time (1-1 F/T).

DIVISION TWO, ROUND 21: FIRST GRADE
Hawkesbury City 1 (E George 90m) Balmora Hercules 1 (P Paras 83m).

GRADE 20: Hawkesbury City 2 Balmora Hercules 3.

RESCHEDULED GAMES, ROUND 19:

FIRST GRADE: Bathurst '75 1 (C Adair 80m) Fairfield Bulls 2 (K Ekerhani 44m A Ali-Khan 50m).
RESERVE GRADE: Bathurst '75 0 Fairfield Bulls 5.

ARRIVE ALIVE WOMENS SUPER LEAGUE, FINAL SERIES, PRELIMINARY FINALS:

GRADE 12: Blacktown Spartans 2 Northern Tigers 1.

GRADE 14: APIA Leichhardt Tigers 0 Northern Tigers 2. **GRADE 16:** Northern Tigers 1 Lady Hawks 2.

RESERVE GRADE: Gladesville Ravens 5

Blacktown Spartans 1

FIRST GRADE: Blacktown Spartans 3 APIA Leichhardt Tigers 4 Win on penalties (0-0 F/T 0-4 E/T).

PREMIER YOUTH LEAGUE FINAL SERIES:

MAJOR SEMI FINALS:

GRADE 13: Marconi Stallions 4 West Sydney Berries 0. **GRADE 14:** Blacktown City FC 0 Manly United FC 1.

GRADE 16: Sutherland Sharks 0 Manly United FC 2. **GRADE 18:** Bonnyrigg White Eagles 0 South Coast Wolves 6.

MINOR SEMI FINALS, GRADE 13:

Sydney Olympic 3 Manly United FC 4.

GRADE 14: Sydney Olympic 1 Marconi Stallions 2. **GRADE 16:** APIA Leichhardt Tigers 1

Sydney United 2.

GRADE 18: Sutherland Sharks 2 Marconi Stallions 0 Extra Time (0-0 F/T).

RESCHEDULED GAMES, PRELIMINARY SEMI FINAL:

GRADE 15: Sutherland Sharks 2 Sydney Olympic 1 Extra Time (1-1 F/T).

SUPER YOUTH LEAGUE, ROUND 22: GRADE 13: Western NSW Panthers 1 Mounties Wanderers 2, Dulwich Hill 2 Parramatta Eagles 1, Schofield Scorpions 0 Spirki FC 3, Granville Rage 1 Northern Tigers 4, Macarthur Rams 3 Blacktown Spartans 4, Sydney University 2 Central Coast Lightning 0.

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The Zois Ruling

By Tony Persoglia

Some football pundits may remember the exploits of the infamous Belgian player Jean-Marc Bosman. The former Standard Liège midfielder was a reasonable footballer, having played for his country at youth level and amassing almost one-hundred appearances with one of Belgium's foremost clubs. But what Bosman is most remembered for is the European Court of Justice ruling in 1995, which ultimately allowed for the free movement of uncontracted players between football clubs in Europe.

Not to be outdone by their European contemporaries, Football Federation Australia have handed down a landmark ruling of their own in early August, allowing for the unprecedented scenario of a player being able to register and play for two clubs – at the same time. In years to come, this may well be coined the Zois ruling – and could change the very nature of how footballers are contracted to clubs in this country.

Earlier this year, Peter Zois signed a one-year contract with South Melbourne and has played in every official match but one, including the club's historic first match in the Singapore Cup. The day before the A-League season kicked off, Zois signed a one-year deal for new A-League franchise Melbourne Heart where he has been employed as Goalkeeper Coach.

The question regarding his current contractual status is a baffling one, perfectly illustrated when you examine his playing record for the month of August thus far

August 1: Played for South Melbourne v Richmond

August 3: On the bench for Melbourne Heart v Central Coast Mariners

August 6: Played for South Melbourne

v Oakleigh Cannons

August 13: On the bench for Melbourne Heart v Newcastle Jets

August 15: Played for South Melbourne v Sunshine George Cross

An intriguing scenario to say the least, and South Melbourne's upcoming Premier League finals campaign could result in an even bigger twist to this tale. There a number of questions that arise which pose some food for thought.

Does Zois still play for South Melbourne in the VPL finals?

What if there is a clash of fixtures between Melbourne Heart and South Melbourne? Which club does he play for? What if he receives a red card for either club? Where is his penalty served?

What of South Melbourne's pending Singapore Cup clash on October 5?

What if a club tables an offer too-good-to-refuse to purchase Zois? Which club gets the transfer fee?

The ultimate question that surrounds this contractual dilemma is simple: Who owns Peter Zois' contract – Melbourne Heart or South Melbourne? Judging by the evidence tabled above, it appears that both clubs do.

This is not entirely unprecedented in the world of football. In Italy and some South American countries for instance, the concept of co-ownership is a practice that is widely implemented. The most common example cited in recent times was that of Brazil's Adriano, who was co-owned by both Inter Milan and Parma. Inter essentially sold half of its share of Adriano to Parma, who were able to play the player in return for covering his wages. This is the major point of difference: Despite being owned by two clubs, Adriano could only ever play for one club under the terms of this arrangement.

The topic of disciplinary suspension is one that is more complex. In Europe for instance, suspension in domestic leagues does not carry through to UEFA compe-



Peter Zois makes a quick save between the sticks for South Melbourne before dashing off to join the ranks at Melbourne Heart. PHOTO: JOHN PUNSHON

tion. Wayne Rooney may receive a red card for Manchester United in the English Premier League, but his suspension does not apply to the European Champions League. Thus, if Peter Zois were red carded for South Melbourne in the VPL, his eligibility in the Singapore Cup in October would be unaffected, as his penalty would only be served domestically.

However, using the example above, if Wayne Rooney were to receive a lengthy suspension, he would be ineligible for any domestic cup competitions which fall under the English FA's jurisdiction. This mirrors the scenario of the A-League and VPL, and if Zois were to receive a red card playing for either

Melbourne Heart or South Melbourne, his suspension would almost definitely be served across both competitions. Or would it?

The contracting of Zois raises question marks over the transfer of other state league players across Australia. Sebastian Mattei (Melbourne Knights), Nicholas Kalmar (Oakleigh Cannons) and Brad McDonald (Brisbane Strikers) have all left their state league clubs to sign contracts in the A-League. Why have these clubs not been afforded the same luxury as South Melbourne, and been able to retain the services of key players as their domestic seasons draw to a close?

Melbourne Heart is in an obvious bind.

Without a National Youth League team to underpin its senior squad, the club has barely had enough time to find a suitable young goalkeeper to complete its roster. However, this hardly constitutes an exceptional circumstance which would allow a rule to be circumvented for the benefit of the A-League. No one can begrudge Peter Zois' desire to play in Australia's top flight competition, but allowing any player to compete in two domestic leagues at the same time with two different clubs, is either a cunning manipulation of the rules, or a case of complete ignorance.

10 things I hate about the Socceroos

By Con Stamocostas

1) The problem of replacing the old farts

The biggest question the Socceroos are facing besides figuring out who the hell the new coach is how the hell we are going to replace 10 years of European experience with a group of unfashionable bench players?

The most talented part team which was the midfield is getting old. Tim Cahill, Brett Emerton, Jason Culina, Mark Bresciano, Vince Grella and Harry Kewell will be around 35 in time for Brazil 2014.

For the last two World Cup cycles the Socceroos midfield has been the main strength.

The tricky task of replacing those players will be no easy feat. There could be a real possibility that a lot of the 2010 World Cup squad will be playing World Cup qualifiers. The lack of depth in the Socceroos squad means we just don't have the cattle for a clean out. We are going to need the so called "golden generation" for a few more years at least and forcing some of the players to retire could mean qualification for 2014 in Brazil could be in peril. Forget about Dad's army, for the Socceroos Brazil 2014 could be "Grandpa's Army"

2) Playing in Europe means we don't know if you are actually any good

Another problem with so many Aussies playing overseas is because we can't see them week in and week out it is difficult to gauge how good they actually are. They leave these shores with potential to

be good players but in recent years only a few youngsters seemed to have matured save for Nathan Burns and David Carney. Pim's mantra was that "Training in Europe is better than playing in the A League". A new one should be.

"Being hidden in Europe is better than showing how crap you are in the A League."

3) Just because Pim hated the A League does not mean he was wrong

The new coach has been announced and all of a sudden everyone is saying that the A League demands more respect, that the players should be given a chance. Let's not forget that Pim did give the A League players a chance and when he did they disappointed. It's just that Pim made the mistake of being honest and saying what a lot of people know and thought out loud. Australians are not used to Dutch honesty. I would say there are only half a dozen A League players that should be looked at being picked for future Socceroos squads and wait to you get a taste of the "German backhand" it's far worse than "Dutch courage"

4) Not picking youth is wasted on the youth

A change of the guard my Greek/Cypriot/Australian hairy arse! The game against Slovenia was a great chance to give players like Tommy Oar, James Holland, Nathan Burns and Dario Vidosic more game time instead they stayed on the bench for most of the game while Richard Garcia

started. Did anyone not learn anything from the Germany game?

5) Lucas Neil ass as big as I LO's

Time to say goodbye Lucas that is all

6) Hiddink's success is a dark shadow

He came he saw he kicked some Uruguayan and Japanese arse. Even though he was only Socceroos boss for a few months Guus Hiddink is hero worshipped for what he did for Australian football and so he should be. Verbeek and new boss Hosieck must feel like they have to follow the Beatles after they just opened with Sergeant Peppers and Day in the Life.

7) The brand is better than the product

At the moment the Socceroos have what they call "positive brand equity" But lose some more friendly games in the manner that they did against Slovenia and produce a poor showing at the Asian Cup in January and the Socceroos brand will get a bad reputation and the negative flow on affects to financial (TV money sponsorship), brand extensions (A League, Youth League and State League's) and consumer base (band wagoners jumping off) could be terminal.

8) Ex-Socceroos Illuminati

With each Socceroo retirement another member joins the EX Socceroos Illuminati. After getting their heads on the box for ten years being an expert in running, jumping, kicking, tackling and shooting, they are now the experts in talking, shouting, joking and experting.

They will never criticize their own (think Kevin Muscat), and they hold unseen power and sway in the football community. Any ex sports star will tell you it's a dramatic change; where once they were Heroes on the field now they are now perceived as Idiots off it.

What to do with a retired sports star? Should they get a job as an assistant youth coach or shave everyday and get a job in the media. The gloss of your amazing playing career gets shined off by desperate ranting and raving about how in my day we had three jobs and horse.

Lately the "Whatever happens in Vegas stays in Vegas" mantra has been unraveling for the Socceroos. During the past week while writing for the Terror both senior members of the Ex-Socceroos Illuminati Robbie Slater and Mark Bosnich have been leaking some secrets. According to Slater a senior Socceroo told Harry Kewell to f off. And according to Bosnich there was: "Talk of management being told to leave the dressing-room moments before the opening World Cup game", and "Of people tip-toeing around certain players, fearful of their power and influence."

All the juicy gossip is slowly starting to come out. I wonder what other dressing room shenanigans occurred in South Africa.

9) Holger Osieck, What Now?

The ubiquitous "They" love making big calls with one sentence cliché's.

A well used one is "A nation gets the leader it deserves." After having a laid

back Dutch coach who was more friends than ruler (Verbeek) with his players the Socceroos now got a German who has a history of being too bossy with his players.

Fun time is over boys; I can't wait for the next instalment of the long running Socceroos soap opera.

"Why doesn't the coach pick me?" Starring Joel Griffiths and Eddy Bosnar.

Hiddink had the luxury of having Viduka, Kewell, Grella, Cahill, Neill and Moore at their physical peaks. Verbeek suffered from this group-getting older and carrying injuries and losing speed. Osieck has a much harder job than Verbeek or Hiddink ever had. It could be that the Socceroos deserve the German kind of man management but what about us fans? Do we really deserve the ex-coach of Canada? I reckon Sydney FC Viteslav Lavicka coach has a much better CV. But let's give him a chance.

10) Vidmar and Van Egmond are a scary future

The future is unwritten said the late Clash front man Joe Strummer. But for the Socceroos it's Aurelio Vidmar and Gary Van Egmond.

The future normally doesn't scare me (except for global warming, peak oil and the next Indiana Jones Movie) but thinking of these two as the future Socceroos coaching team, I can't promise that skid marks will not be somewhere in the future.

MACKENZIE AT LARGE

An Occasional Offering from Craig MacKenzie

Wright shines on debut in Carling Cup

BAILEY Wright had a superb senior debut for Preston North End last week in its 5-0 Carling Cup away win over Stockport County.

The teenager was thrown into the deep end after injuries and international call-ups decimated the Deepdale outfit's defence and in front of a crowd of 3724 at Edgeley Park he proved to one and all just what an outstanding prospect he is.

If this had been a boxing match Wright would have been a pronounced outsider. In the red corner stands a 183cm, 83kg 18-year-old from Australia who 14 months ago was playing for Langwarrin in Victoria's State One competition with a club CV that includes a stint with Mornington's under-13s and a spell with Dandenong Thunder.

In the blue corner is 31-year-old Dubliner Barry Conlon, a 191cm, 89kg hard-nosed pro who has plied his trade as a striker with QPR, Manchester City, Southend, York, Darlington, Barnsley, Mansfield, Bradford and Grimsby and can also lay claim to loan spells with Plymouth, Colchester, Rotherham and Chesterfield.

But halfway through the second half, Stockport manager Paul Simpson threw in the towel and dragged Conlon from what had become a no-contest.

Preston manager Darren Ferguson, whose father and Man U icon Sir Alex was an interested onlooker, had no doubts that Wright would acquit himself well.

"Bailey was different class. I had no hesitation in playing him tonight," said the Preston gaffer after the match.

"He's got the right temperament and he's aggressive. He was playing against a seasoned pro in Barry Conlon tonight and I think Conlon was sick and tired of him by the time he came off."

When I contacted Wright last week he was particularly pleased that the defence had kept a clean sheet and that he never allowed Conlon to intimidate him.

"He's obviously quite a big, strong and experienced centre forward but I thought I marked him pretty well. There was a little bit of push and shove between us at times but no verbal stuff whatsoever," said Wright.

"I started off a little bit nervous but once the nerves went I began to play my normal game and I thought I did well.

"The players and coaches during the game were really good and helped me to settle. Callum Davidson (Preston left back and club captain) was really encouraging and helped me out by giving me plenty of tips and information before the game, during the warm-up and

throughout the game.

"When you've got coaches and players giving you that sort of support it makes it a lot easier to go out and play the way you know you can."

Wright is in the second year of a two-year scholarship and his stated aim is to try and get a pro contract at Preston. He's level-headed enough to know that there will be times that he'll play in the youth and reserve teams this season and is acutely aware that his level of commitment can't drop off during those periods.

"It's all happened so quickly for me over here but I've really enjoyed it and I only hope it keeps going well. I have to make sure I perform week-in week-out if I'm going to get another chance to impress with the first team."

And that chance of another first team start may not be that far away. On Saturday Preston got rolled 4-0 by Swansea in their league clash with Wright sitting on the bench throughout.

After losing the season opener at home 2-0 to Doncaster Rovers, Preston now has suffered its first back-to-back defeats at the start of a season for 21 years and has not won on the road in its last 10 attempts.

And just in case anyone's wondering if there is any significance to Wright's senior squad number of 42, there isn't. No connection with Collingwood's late great Darren Millane or to the "Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy".

"Nah, 42 was just the first team squad number I was given even though my training kit number is 56. It doesn't bother me what number I am."

You don't need added incentives when you are so committed to chasing a dream but if Wright did need a slight nudge in the right direction (no pun intended) it could come next month when his proud dad, Andy, flies over to spend some time with his talented son.

Other coaches green with envy

THERE are few coaches in this country with a CV to match that of former VIS and FFV National Training Centre head coach Ian Greener.

Greener assisted Ernie Merrick at Sunshine George Cross from 1989 to 1991. He was VIS assistant coach from 1992 to 1995, Victorian Soccer Federation Coaching and Development Manager and State junior coach from 1991 to 2005, VIS head coach from 2005 to 2009 and in November last year was appointed NTC head coach.

It's almost scary to think of the list of players who have come under Greener's guidance in the past two decades. Then there's the list of coaches he has



Vince Grella is one of a long list of players who have been coached by Ian Greener.

accredited

We've compiled both lists and although it reads like a who's who of the sport here it is by no means comprehensive.

With apologies to Greener for the players and coaches not in the following lists, here's what can legitimately take centre stage in his résumé:

PLAYERS: Kevin Muscat, Frank Tallia, Lorenz Kindtner, Paul Foster, Craig Foster, Gary Hasler, Ernie Tapai, David Clarkson, Shaun Parton, John Waddell, Damien Mori, Aaron Healey, Steve Wardle, Steve Panopoulos, Vince Grella, Daniel Allsopp, Peter Zoia, Dragi Nastevski, John Maisano, Simon Colosimo, Tom Pondejak, Levant Osman, Eugene Galekovic, Jason Culina, Scott McDonald, Josh Kennedy, Adrian Leijer, Kristian Sarkies, Massimo Murdoch, Simon Storey, Martin Johns, Michael Ferrante, Ljubo Milicevic, Joey Di Iorio, Steve Laurie, Vince Lia, Frankie Lagana, Daniel Piorkowski, Steve Pace, Steve Pantelides, John Hutchinson, Brendan Beni, Tony Sterjovski, Daniel Vasilevski, Carl Recchia, Pece Siveski, James Duvcevski, Steve Tilovski, John Sapazovski, Mathew Spiranic, Leigh Broxham, Daniel Visevic, Sam Sivic, Jamie Cummings, Mathew Park, Daniel Piemonte, Paul Gisanou, Andreas Govas, Milos Lujic, Serdar Pir, Andrew Jerez, Seb Mattei, Rani Dowisha, Kamal Ibrahim, Jimmy Jeggo, Tedros Yabio, Bailey Wright, Anthony Bran, Rudi Saglam, Dado Lovkovic, Fab DiLizio, Petar Franjic, Kliment Taseski, Joshua Groenewald, Steve Hatzikostas, Jamie MacLaren, Brodie Paterson, Hernan Espindola, Kobbie Boahene, Nick Ansell, Luke O'Dea, Alex Tabor, Dean Piemonte, Jake Nakic, Alex Rojas, Billy Natsioulas, Tony Laverde and Mathew Theodore.

COACHES: Mehmet Durakovic, Dean Hennessy, George Campbell, Ian Williamson, Vlado Todarowski, Ernie Tapai, Vlado Bozinoski, Stuart Cannell, Paul Harris, Stuart Munro, Michael Conroy, Dave McPherson, Dave Winton, Joe Montemurro, David Clarkson, Aaron Healey, Vaughan Coveney, Ange Postecoglou, Luciano (Luke) Trani, Stan Webster and Dougie Chiscolm.

Greener is currently lecturing at Deakin University and assisting the soccer programs at Ivanhoe Grammar and St Monica's College in Epping. Incidentally, after Bailey Wright let his family know the good news about his selection in Preston's starting lineup last week he texted Greener because he knew his former coach would be chuffed with his progress.

That's typical of the respect that Greener has earned from so many of the players that he has had dealings with.

The football world is never seeing red

BILLY Rae claims that his reputation has been sullied by an FFV tribunal decision which has left him facing a two-week suspension with Langwarrin incurring a \$1000 fine.

He also is deeply hurt at what he claims are false statements made by the

referee and by the conduct during the hearing of tribunal member Alan Contini.

Misconduct charges were laid against Langwarrin and Rae following an under-13A south fixture between Springvale White Eagles and Langy in late July.

The first charge against Langwarrin was found not proven at last Wednesday night's hearing but a guilty determination was made in the second charge against Langwarrin and Rae who coaches the club's under-13s.

Rae has video evidence which directly challenges the referee's assertion that Rae questioned the official throughout the first half.

The referee also claimed that he approached Rae at half time but a host of witnesses back Rae's claim that this did not happen, prominent among them being the opposition coach.

"I never saw the referee at half time. I was with my players. I don't know where the referee was and quite frankly that's not my concern at half-time," said Rae.

"The referee said that I questioned every decision he made in the first half. That simply is not true and I have independent witnesses prepared to sign statutory declarations that completely refute the referee's version of events.

"I raised this matter with Chris Barnbridge (FFV Referee Manager) but he told me to go to the disciplinary people at the federation. So I did but they told me to go to Chris. Can anyone tell me what's going on here?"

Rae was stunned by the comments of Contini who brought up a 1994 incident involving Rae as a player and Contini as a referee.

"In my opinion, Alan Contini has issues with me judging by the way he brought up something that took place 16 years ago," said Rae.

"He also said to me: 'You'd think you'd have learned your lesson by now'. My assistant coach Andy Thomas was with me at the hearing and could barely believe what he heard."

Back in 1994 Rae received a six-month suspension arising from charges laid at a game between Parkmore and Endeavour United.

However, that suspension was quashed on appeal. Rae had legal representation at that appeal and is considering his options after last week's hearing.

Rae believes that Contini should not have sat in judgment of his case and is confident that he can mount a strong argument that Contini had a pre-conceived view of Rae that was prejudicial to him receiving a fair hearing.

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Taroona relegated in Tassie and Olympia survive by skin of teeth

By Walter Pless

Taroona were relegated from the Forestry Tasmania Southern Premier League after just one season in the top flight after they could only draw 1-1 away with third-placed Glenorchy Knights on Friday evening at KGV Park in their final league game of the season.

The draw moved them up a place to second-last and dumped Olympia Warriors to last place, but only for 24 hours.

The pressure was really on Olympia in their final game on Saturday night against second-placed Tilford Zebras, but they managed a 2-2 draw at KGV Park to move level with Taroona on points.

Olympia's better goal-difference meant they were second-last and safe from relegation, to the great relief of their fans, who turned out in large numbers to watch their final league match against traditional rivals Zebras.

Olympia president George Mamacas was one of the most relieved people in attendance and he could be seen wiping his brow in relief after the final whistle as the Olympia fans streamed on to the pitch to mob their players and as sky rockets whizzed into the night sky and crackers exploded on the ground.

Taroona got off to a good start against Knights when Toby Dove put them ahead in the 33rd minute with a long-range strike that deceived Knights keeper Ben Peter and whizzed into the net.

Brendan Garth then fired against the Taroona woodwork and Josh Fielding nodded Jade Clay's cross just wide as the Knights searched for an equaliser.

That came from Clay 7 minutes after the break when he battled furiously to retain possession on the right of the penalty area before netting with a low shot inside the far corner that caught keeper Robert Hurtle flat-footed.

Both sides had chances before the end, one of the best falling to the Knights' Matt Nowicki, who pulled his shot at an open goal just wide of the left-hand post.

It ended 1-1, however, and this meant Olympia had to earn at least a point against Zebras the following evening.

Olympia started in determined fashion and Alex Nandan fired them ahead in the 16th minute from Kosta Grilias's left-wing cross, which eluded two defenders inside the box.



New Town Eagles' Mark Page (left) can only watch as South Hobart's Andy Brennan controls the ball.

PHOTO: WALTER PLESS



South Hobart captain Bart Beecroft holds the championship trophy as coach Ken Morton (left) looks on. PHOTO: WALTER PLESS

Zebras were level three minutes later when Jayden Welch found space down the left and crossed low to the far post, where Ben Crosswell smashed the

ball into the roof of the net from close range.

Olympia goalkeeper Dmitri Nester rescued his side in the 24th minute

when Dwayne Walsh broke clear on the right. Nester came off his line quickly to block at the striker's feet and concede a corner.

NORTHERN RESULTS

Northern Rangers 1 lost to Devonport City 2
Prospect Knights 2 drew with Launceston City 2
Riverside Olympic 2 defeated Somerset 1
Ulverstone 0 lost to Burnie United 1

SOUTHERN RESULTS

Glenorchy Knights 1 drew with Taroona 1
Kingborough Lions 3 defeated Clarence United 1
South Hobart 4 defeated New Town Eagles 1
Tilford Zebras 2 drew with Olympia FC Warriors 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Northern Rangers	16	12	3	1	56	24	39
Devonport City	15	11	2	2	49	23	35
Burnie United	16	10	0	6	52	31	30
Riverside Olympic	15	9	2	4	44	25	29
Prospect Knights	16	7	3	6	46	38	24
Ulverstone	16	7	2	7	44	36	23
Somerset	16	6	0	10	36	55	18
Launceston City	16	2	2	12	35	51	8
Launceston United	16	0	0	16	17	96	0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
South Hobart	21	18	3	0	61	15	57
Tilford Zebras	21	11	5	5	49	38	38
Glenorchy Knights	21	10	5	6	40	35	35
Clarence United	21	7	7	7	39	41	28
New Town Eagles	21	6	6	9	39	40	24
Kingborough Lions	21	7	3	11	29	39	24
Olympia FC Warriors	21	2	7	12	25	47	13
Taroona	21	3	4	14	23	50	13

NTH NEXT ROUND

Catch Up game:

Riverside Olympic v
Devonport City
Birch Avenue
Saturday
KO 14:30

CUP FINAL

Milan Lakoseljic Cup Final
South Hobart v Clarence United
6pm Kick Off
KGV Park

Statewide Cup Women's Final
TIS v Taroona FC
4pm Kick Off
KGV Park

Welch let Olympia off the hook on the half-hour when he broke through and had a clear sight of goal but skewed his effort wide.

Five minutes later, Chris Kumpulainen, who had squandered two efforts early in the match, put Olympia 2-1 up when he miskicked, but, in so doing, also fooled Zebras keeper Jason Voss. Kumpulainen managed to get around the keeper and atone for his error by reaching the ball and hammering it home.

Ricky Self netted in the 50th minute from Walsh's low right-wing cross to make it 2-2 and Olympia survived a torrid second half to earn the point that saved them from the drop.

League champions South Hobart set a new club record of 29 games without defeat when they beat New Town Eagles 4-1 on Saturday afternoon to finish 19 points ahead of second-placed Zebras.

Tom Roach netted twice and Andy Brennan and Jonathon Lo once each, while Adam McKeown replied for Eagles.

In the remaining match, goals by Joel Schuth, Tom McDonald and Damien Pearce gave Kingborough Lions United a 3-1 win over Clarence United, whose goal came from Luke Huigslot.

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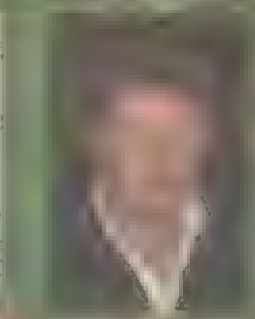
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RELEGATION RESCUE FOR RAIDERS

By Nat Adamopoulos

Sky rockets, flares and fire crackers were part of post match celebrations as Raiders narrowly avoided relegation in a scoreless draw with Cumberland United Foxes at the Croatian Sports Centre the match dedicated to clubman John Walker who had recently passed away. The draw was enough to see the club survive and stay up in the Super League just by the skin of their teeth.

It was a hard fought draw as the Foxes, whose drop down to Premier League had already been determined quite a few weeks earlier, played their usual very tough brand of football to try to spoil the party for the homieside, particularly in the second half. As has been the case for most of the season, veteran footballer and captain Richie Alagich played a key role in the match, commanding the midfield with plenty of possession and his pot shots at goal, at times drawing four or five players to mark him to prevent supply up front. For the good strong crowd of home supporters it was obvious from the start that the Raiders were determined to get a good result in this final match of the season, failing that their only hope was to see the Adelaide Cobras go down to Para Hills Knights to escape the drop. The Raiders did have more of the ball in the first half with several opportunities on target that Foxes keeper Nick Munroe handled easily. Each time the Raiders brought the ball up front the Foxes backline worked hard in packs neutralizing any chances from penetrating the defence, despite not having their player/coach Neil Young on the park. Several times the Foxes were able to catch the homieside on the break, getting the ball to their front third but quickly being pounced on by Raiders Danny Hain, Daniel

Scordo, Dalibor Barisic and Dejan Markov. With a somewhat scrappy first 45 minutes both sides went in to the break without conceding any goals and set for a cracker finish to the match.

Early in the second the Raiders looked set to score with some congested play in the box on several occasions but nothing eventuating as Foxes keeper or defenders successfully cleared the ball away quickly. Tempers were beginning to show as the game went on, a physical duel between Raiders Sean Brennan and Cumberland's Daniel Varma ending with a yellow card being flashed to both as they tussled in the box before a free kick in the 60th minute. The Foxes were physically challenging conceding many free kicks to the homieside. The Raiders used their wingmen Michael Acton and Craig Goodwin to feed the ball up as they looked for Alagich in the middle to blast balls into to the box. Varma was relentless for the Foxes, continuing to hassle Brennan to the point where one too many sloppy tackles saw the young Raider receiving his second yellow and early dismissal with 5 minutes to go in the match. A last ditch effort by the Foxes to break the deadlock was unsuccessful and the Raiders hung on share points with the final whistle.

The other vital match being played out at The Paddocks between Para Hills Knights and the Adelaide Cobras saw the Knights with a strong 2-0 which mean curtains for the Cobras in the Super League, goals scored by Ben DeBono and Steven Ward. With the Cobras fighting for their lives their game plan was to throw players forward bombing long balls up to try to score. Para Hills under the direction of debutante Super League coach Kenny Tosh just played their normal game of football, wearing down teams

as they have done for most for the season. To their credit Cobras were able to keep the game at nil all for the first half but an early goal in the second by DeBono for the Knights put them on the backfoot. They did have a chance to equalize soon after but missed the chance. Para Hills continued to work hard and the work paid off with a second goal coming to seal the match for them. The win means the Knights finish in second place on the ladder and a home game for the first of the Final 5 series of matches, the second time only they have achieved this. It reinforces their huge success this season and now puts them in the running for a real chance at a trophy this year.

Other matches around the grounds for the final round of the 2010 season saw Galaxy at home keep their survival in the Super League intact by a resounding 2-1 win over league leaders MetroStars with goals being scored for Galaxy by Steven DeGiovanniello and Joe Wright with rock solid defender Lee Robertson grabbing a rare one for his side. Campbelltown City thumped Western Strikers to the tune of 6-1 despite scores being level at one all at half time. Veteran striker Jason Trimboli bagged himself a double and the Golden Boot title with 12 goals for the season. Other goal scorers for Campbelltown were Matthew Deegan, Raf Frisina and Aaron Taye with Chris Flanagan scoring yet again for the Strikers. Adelaide City Park saw the Black and Whites continue on with their fine form defeating the other in form side Blue Eagles 4-2. Adelaide City's Young guns Matthew Halliday and Pat DeRuvo found the back of the net as did Nichy Orr and Riccardo Da Silva, while for the Blue Eagles striker Sarantis Parrissos and defender Dean Kendrick scored his fourth goal for the 2010 season

	P	W	D	L	F	A	G	D	Pts
MetroStars	18	11	4	3	37	19	18	37	
Para Hills	18	9	5	4	28	19	9	32	
Adelaide City	18	10	2	6	28	27	1	32	
Adelaide Blue Eagles	18	9	4	5	40	25	15	31	
Campbelltown City	18	8	5	5	33	23	10	29	
Adelaide Galaxy	18	5	7	6	21	24	3	22	
Western Strikers	18	5	7	6	33	38	-5	22	
Raiders	18	4	6	8	17	23	-6	18	
Adelaide Cobras	18	5	2	11	23	39	-18	17	
Cumberland United	18	1	4	13	17	40	-23	7	

Adelaide City vs Adelaide Blue Eagles
3pm Adelaide City Park
Adelaide Galaxy vs MetroStars
3pm Lion Makers Park
Campbelltown vs Western Strikers
4pm Newton Village Sports Complex
Para Hills vs Adelaide Cobras
3pm The Paddocks
Raiders vs Cumberland Utd
4pm Croatian Sports Centre

	P	W	D	L	F	A	G	D	Pts
Modbury	17	11	3	3	44	22	22	36	
Croydon	18	9	5	4	31	21	10	32	
Enfield City	18	7	6	5	29	27	2	27	
Adelaide Comets	18	8	2	8	33	32	1	26	
Pirates	18	8	7	5	30	25	5	25	
Adelaide Olympic	18	6	6	6	30	27	3	24	
White City Woodville	18	6	4	8	23	25	-2	22	
Adelaide Hills	18	6	2	10	30	34	-4	20	
Salisbury Utd	18	6	2	10	22	34	-12	20	
West Adelaide	17	5	1	11	17	42	-25	16	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	G	D	Pts
Noarlunga United	16	10	5	1	35	15	20	36	
Playford City	16	9	3	4	41	17	24	30	
Northern Demons	16	8	6	2	27	20	7	30	
N.A.B.	16	5	5	4	33	27	6	23	
Seaford	16	7	2	7	28	31	-5	23	
Torres	16	5	2	9	33	43	-10	17	
Gawler	15	4	3	8	21	29	-8	15	
South Adelaide	16	3	5	8	25	31	-6	14	
Cove	16	2	3	11	18	46	-28	9	

Next week Adelaide Blue Eagles and NE MetroStars travel to Hindmarsh Stadium to fight for the title of 2010 Federation Cup Trophy holders.

Adelaide City 4 (M.Halliday, P.DeRuvo, R.DeRuvo, N.Orr) Adelaide Blue Eagles 2 (S.Parrissos, D.Kendrick) (HT 0-0)
Best - Adelaide City (M.Halliday, P.Pezos, J.Negus) Blue Eagles (E.Kounavellis, D.Kendrick, K.Harris)
Res - Adelaide City vs Blue Eagles (Postponed due to pitch conditions, match rescheduled for Monday 16 August 8pm)
U19 - Adelaide City vs Blue Eagles (Postponed due to pitch conditions, match rescheduled for Monday 16 August 6pm)

Adelaide Galaxy 2 (S.DeGiovanniello, J.Wright) MetroStars 1 (L.Robertson) (HT 1-0)
Best - Galaxy (T.Dittmar, S.DeGiovanniello, B.Rayner)
MetroStars (Dan.Menechella, J.Groves, L.Robertson)
Res - Galaxy vs MetroStars (Postponed due to pitch conditions)
U19 - Galaxy 0 MetroStars 1

Campbelltown City 6 (J.Trimboli 2, M.Deegan, T.Nelson, A.Taye, T.O.G.) Western Strikers 1 (C.Flanagan) (HT 1-1)
Best - Campbelltown (M.Deegan, R.Frisina, A.Taye) Strikers (Y.Sudic, M.Russo, S.McNeill)
Res - Campbelltown vs Strikers (Postponed due to pitch conditions)
U19 - Campbelltown 4 Strikers 0

Para Hills 2 (S.Ward, B.DeBono) Adelaide Cobras 0 (HT 0-0)
Best - Para Hills (Ma.Mullen, D.Bounds, T.Rutter) Cobras (D.Turner, R.Calabria, C.Mullen)
Res - Para Hills 0 Cobras 0
U19 - Para Hills 4 Cobras 2

Raiders 0 Cumberland United 0 (HT 0-0)
Best - Raiders (D.Hain, D.Scordo, R.Alagich) Cumberland (D.Carter, B.Burgess, R.Lippett)
Res - Raiders 0 Cumberland 1
U19 - Raiders 3 Cumberland 5

Adelaide Hills 0 Pirates 2 (C.Alagich, J.Coley) (HT 0-2)
Best - Adelaide Hills (A.Kelly, S.Wagoner, N.Rathjen) Pirates (J.Mavromatis, M.Markham, C.Alagich)
Res - Adelaide Hills 0 Pirates 1
U19 - Adelaide Hills 1 Pirates 0

Adelaide Olympic 3 (N.Andrijanto, M.Talbot, T.McLennan) Adelaide Comets 2 (F.Margarioti, S.Catanzaro) (HT 1-0)
Best - Olympic (N.Andrijanto, M.Talbot, R.Margarioti)
Comets (D.Makridakis, S.Warner, D.Voss-Piotto)
Res - Olympic 1 Comets 0
U19 - Olympic 1 Comets 1

Enfield City 0 White City Woodville 1 (M.Keane) (HT 0-0)
Best - Enfield (J.Lagana, R.Waller, C.Marwe) White City (M.Keane, R.Saraceno, D.Lakic)
Res - Enfield 0 White City 0
U19 - Enfield 3 White City 1

Salisbury United 1 (J.Font) Croydon 1 (K.Koznick) (HT 0-1)
Res - Salisbury 0 Croydon 2
U19 - Salisbury 2 Croydon 1

West Adelaide vs Modbury (Postponed due to pitch conditions)
Res - West Adelaide vs Modbury (Postponed due to pitch conditions)
U19 - West Adelaide 1 Modbury 1

Gawler 0 The Cove 0 (HT 0-0)
Best - Gawler (C.Woodland, A.Lynn, G.Joy) Cove (B.Szentpeteri, D.Graystone, N.O'Reilly)
Res - Gawler 1 Cove 2
U19 - Gawler 1 Cove 1

Northern Demons 2 (S.Gannon, P.Keane) Noarlunga United 2 (A.McArdle, P.Parris) (HT 2-1)
Best - Demons (N.Young, S.Gannon, J.Capurso) Noarlunga (F.McLean, K.Madaley, S.Cooper)
Res - Demons 0 Noarlunga 0
U19 - Demons 2 Noarlunga 3

Seaford 1 (D.Ellis) N.A.B. 4 (N.Sette 3, V.Schimizzil) (HT 0-3)
Best - Seaford (D.Ellis, D.Taylor, F.Slatary)
Res - Seaford 1 N.A.B. 1
U19 - Seaford 2 N.A.B. 5

N.A.B. (S.Forte, N.Sette, M.Seatree) Res - Seaford 1 N.A.B. 1
U19 - Seaford 2 N.A.B. 5
South Adelaide 2 (B.Coombs, J.Cook) Playford City 2 (S.Farncombe, G.Zotli) (HT 1-1)
Best - South Adelaide (C.Reed, T.Barnhurst, J.Cook) Playford (J.Allen, M.Beron, M.Gaston)
Res - South Adelaide 3 Playford 0
U19 - South Adelaide 2 Playford 2



Raiders Daniel Scordo gets a head onto an incoming with contenders all around.

PHOTO: ADAM BUTLER

Bulls End Strikers' Winning Streak

By Jarrod Ellis

With the top four already firmly entrenched in their positions Round 21 of the 2010 Hyundai QSL was all about playing for pride or finding form going into the finals as the top four teams faced off against the bottom four on the weekend.

Lighting problems struck once again at Perry Park as Saturday night's scheduled game against QAS was postponed until the next afternoon as the ground was plunged into darkness only an hour before kick-off.

When the game did eventually get underway it was QAS who seized the initiative, Kwame Yeboah giving the youngsters the lead in only the third minute of the match. Brisbane started the slower of the two sides but that came as no real surprise as much has been made of their players' workload in recent weeks with so many tralling for A-League clubs as well as training and playing for the Strikers.

One of the players in question, Jordan Farina, shook off any fatigue when he equalised for the home side in the 19th minute with a well taken goal. Brisbane have found QAS a tough proposition this season and that form continued when Yeboah popped up shortly before half-time to claim his second goal and restore the visitors to the lead.

The second half played out similarly to the first, both sides creating chances in front of goal but it was to be Brisbane who would eventually find the back of the net. Unsurprisingly the man who came to the fore for the Strikers was Matt Thurtell, the QSL leading scorer, bagging himself a double in the 67th and 75th minutes as Brisbane came from behind to finish the regular season with a win.

After a season of frustration for Capricorn Cougars their final game of the year brought them some happiness as they crushed NQ Razorbacks 4-1 at Ryan Park on Saturday. Tom Evans, Martyn Davies, Michael Cay and Fergus McIntosh were all in on the act as the Cougars spread the goals around in a dominant display.

The Razorbacks' winless streak now stretches to seven and coach Kevin Mitchell will have his work cut out for him to turn around the squads fortunes in time for their



Bulls midfielder George Koronia tries to stay on his feet as he pursues his Miners opponent. PHOTO: JIM HATCHMAN



elimination final against FNQ Bulls at the end of the month.

There was another upset at Borzi Park as Whitsunday Miners overcame the Bulls 3-1 thanks to two late goals. After a first half devoid of goals the second half came to life when Josh DeNittis gave the Bulls a 1-0 lead in the 58th min-

ute. That was as good as things were to get for the home side however, as the Miners equalised only three minutes later courtesy of Kevin Nguyen.

With the finals set to being in a fortnight the Bulls would have been hoping for a morale boosting win but those hopes were

crushed in a three minute period late in the game. The arrival of the 86th minute saw midfielder Nathan Burgess strike the ball into Angelo Serafin's goal to put the Miners ahead. Trailing by one the Bulls still had time to find an equaliser but only two minutes later Ben Schaper put the result beyond

	P	W	D	L	For	Ag	GD	Pts
1 Sunshine Coast	21	18	1	2	63	26	37	55
2 Brisbane Strikers	21	14	3	4	56	21	35	45
3 FNQ Bulls	21	11	2	8	46	40	6	35
4 NQ Razorbacks	21	8	5	8	36	31	5	29
5 Capricorn Cougars	20	6	3	11	27	39	-12	21
6 QAS	19	5	4	10	39	53	-14	19
7 Whitsunday Miners	20	4	6	10	29	45	-16	18
8 Bundaberg Spirit	21	2	4	15	25	65	-40	10

RESULTS

QAS 2 (Yeboah 3,38) v Brisbane Strikers 3 (Farina 19, Thurtell 67,75)

Capricorn Cougars 4 (Evans 14, Davies 26, Cay 59, McIntosh 63) v NQ Razorbacks 1 (Edwards)

FNQ Bulls 1 (DeNittis 58) v Whitsunday Miners 3 (Nguyen 61, Burgess 86, Schaper 88)

Bundaberg Spirit 0 v Sunshine Coast FC 2 (Gonai 46,57)

COMING UP

SEMI FINAL 1
28 Aug 8:00pm FNQ Bulls v NQ Razorbacks

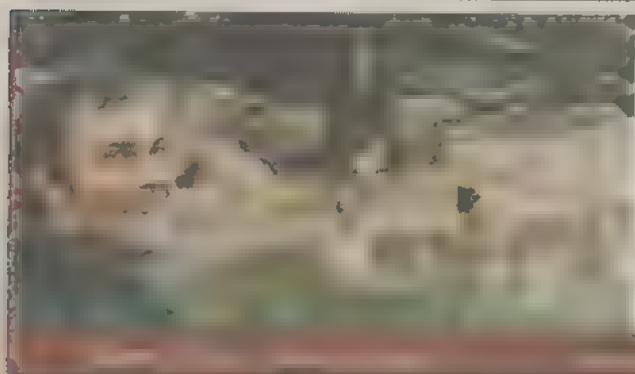
29 Aug 3:00pm Sunshine Coast FC v Brisbane Strikers

doubt as he struck Whitsunday's third.

The final fixture of the weekend was the clash between Premiers Sunshine Coast Fire and wooden-spooners Bundaberg Spirit at Martens Oval. The previous encounter between these two sides in Bundaberg belied the gap between them on the table as they fought out a 3-3 draw.

However, on this occasion the Spirit wouldn't have as much joy and eventually went down a creditable 2-0. The first half contained much of the home sides' better work and they weren't fortunate to be going into the sheds with the score 0-0 at the end of the first forty-five.

The second half was where Sunshine Coast asserted their superior quality and it only took a matter of seconds after the restart for the visitors to find themselves in the lead after Yuta Gonai beat the outstretched arms of the keeper. The midfielder wasn't satisfied with just one goal and he found the back of the net eleven minutes later to give his side a two-goal buffer and ultimately the three points.



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CANBERRA FC HAVE TITLE WITHIN THEIR GRASP

By Russ Gibbs

Canberra FC are league champions in all but name only following a come from behind 2-1 victory over closest rivals Belconnen United at McKellar Park giving the 2009 treble winners a five point lead at the head of the Gatorade Premier League table with only two matches remaining.

A goal from substitute Paul Ivanic, who collected a through ball and thumped a low left foot drive beyond the reach of Rohan Shepherd in the Belconnen goal to send the visiting support into frenzy five minutes from time, completed a memorable evening for the visitors.

Earlier it had seemed that the Blue Devils would be the ones celebrating as they took the match to their opponents sneaking into the lead three minutes before the interval thanks to an opportunistic strike from Dustin Wells. The midfielder pounced on a defensive error to slide a shot goalwards which Canberra FC 'keeper Ben Klug blocked only for the ball to fortuitously deflect back off Wells and into the net for the Belconnen player's 11th goal of the season.

Scott Conlon's team had a superb chance to double their lead in the early moments of the second half when Wells' fierce drive was pushed away by Klug to the feet of Tai Smith who, perhaps, should have done better than shoot straight at the prostrate custodian. Canberra FC levelled after 77 minutes when John Glass rifled home from distance, the ferocity of the shot deceiving Shepherd, before Ivanic's denouement which silenced the home support and has surely wrapped up yet another league title triumph for Marko Vrkic's star-studded line-up.

Cooma Tigers consolidated third place on the league table after a relatively trouble-free 3-0 victory over Woden Valley at Nijong Oval. The lower-placed Woden team battled hard throughout the encounter but never fully recovered from falling 1-0 behind in the first half when Serdan Bircan fired the Tigers into the lead. A brace of second half goals to poacher Daniel Gecic confirmed the three points for Gaby Wilk's team and continues their excellent record at their home ground with only Belconnen having won in Cooma all season.

A brace of goals to midfield lynchpin Justin Selkirk was enough for Monaro Panthers to claim a 2-0 victory over Canberra Olympic in the Sunday evening encounter at Hawker Football Centre. Selkirk struck twice in the first half to give the Panthers what was to be an ultimately unassailable lead and push the Queanbeyan based team up to fourth place on the ladder and officially end Olympics' frustrating season.

The match between the two bottom-placed teams, Goulburn Striker and ANU FC ended goalless on a difficult pitch at Cookbundoon. With both teams struggling with injuries and unavailability it was little surprise that little should separate the two teams. Chances were at a premium in a tight match with Goulburn defenders Eddy Harris and Josh Phelps in good form for the home team whilst Sam McDonald and Tom Rogic caused problems for the Strikers with their perpetual movement and pace. Strikers' goalkeeper Bryan Roberts was forced to play with a shoulder injury and

did exceptionally well to power through the ninety minutes and held his team to a share of the points.

The scheduled fixture between Tuggeranong United and Canberra City at Kambah 2 was postponed after the match officials deemed the sticky looking pitch unplayable, cancelling the fixtures prior to the Premier Pathway League game. The re-arranged fixtures will be replayed at a suitable date in the near future.

WODEN SETS TITLE RACE ALIGHT WITH FOXES VICTORY

Woden Valley has forced themselves right back into the title race with a comprehensive 3-1 victory over Belwest Foxes at Woden Park in the latest round of action in The Tradies Women's Premier League.

The Woden youngsters were good value for their win thanks to goals from Emma Thornton, Catherine Brown and Ashleigh Palombi after coming from behind.

Belwest Foxes had a dream start to this top of the table clash going in front after only four minutes when Cian Maciejewski slotted into an empty goal from close range for her 22nd goal of the season after Hope Wilkins pace had seen the striker race clear and draw Gill Raymond in the Woden goal allowing Maciejewski the easiest of finishes.

Woden refused to be bowed though and hit back almost immediately when they were awarded a penalty for hand ball in the 8th minute. Emma Thornton proved deadly from the spot blasting her kick high into the roof of the net and

giving Belwest Foxes 'keeper Melanie Luksa no chance. Luksa did however save a penalty at the start of the second half, diving to her left to beat away Thornton's effort after Palombi was felled in the area, only for the rebound to fall kindly to Catherine Brown who slammed home from ten metres.

With the match on the line the next goal was always crucial and it was Woden who grabbed it when Palombi lobbed Luksa from an acute angle for her 22nd goal of the year to give Woden the three points and reduce the gap at the top of the table to only two points.

Matilda's striker Caitlin Munoz was amongst the goals again bagging a personal haul of four as Belconnen United routed Brindabella Blues 9-1 at Calwell. Munoz hatful took the Golden Boot leader to 26 goals for the 2010 season and paved the way for an easy Blue Devils win. Munoz was joined amongst the goals by Katie Woodman (2), Amy Spence, Maja Blasch and Ilahna Atchison as the visitors romped to a comfortable win that has seen them keep their six point lead over Weston Creek and third place on the ladder.

Weston Creek meanwhile was indebted to a goal from Amanda Auroousseau, making up for her unfortunate own goal last weekend, as Weston defeated Tuggeranong United 1-0 in a tight match. The result puts Tuggeranong out of finals contention and keeps Weston in fourth place and in the finals marginally ahead of Canberra FC who was held to a 0-0 draw by ANU FC on a muddy pitch at the University of Canberra.

Sat 21 Aug KO 6pm
Canberra City v Goulburn Strikers
Hawker Football Centre

Sun 22 Aug KO 3pm
ANU FC v Belconnen Utd
ANU North Oval 1

Sun 22 Aug KO 3pm
Canberra FC v Canberra Olympic
Deakin Stadium (Deakin Oval)

Sun 22 Aug KO 3pm
Cooma Tigers v Tuggeranong Utd
Nijong Oval

Sun 22 Aug KO 3pm
Monaro Panthers v Woden Valley
Riverside Stadium

	P	W	D	L	F	A	G	D	Pts
1 Canberra FC	16	11	5	0	50	12	+38	38	
2 Belconnen United	16	10	3	3	41	23	+18	33	
3 Cooma Tigers	16	8	4	4	32	17	+15	28	
4 Monaro Panthers	16	8	2	6	26	26	0	26	
5 Canberra City	15	7	3	5	28	21	+7	24	
6 Canberra Olympic	16	4	5	7	19	28	-9	17	
7 Woden Valley	16	5	1	10	22	40	-18	16	
8 Tuggeranong United	15	4	3	8	21	44	-23	15	
9 Goulburn Strikers	16	3	4	9	25	28	-3	13	
10 ANU FC	16	3	2	11	16	39	-23	11	

WPL Ladder									
	P	W	D	L	F	A	G	D	Pts
1 Belwest Foxes	17	15	0	2	80	13	+67	45	
2 Woden Valley	17	14	1	2	61	15	+46	43	
3 Belconnen United	18	9	4	5	56	17	+39	31	
4 Weston Creek	18	7	4	7	31	27	+4	25	
5 Canberra FC	17	6	8	6	25	38	-13	23	
6 Tuggeranong United	18	4	4	10	32	43	-11	16	
7 ANU WFC	18	3	6	9	17	38	-21	15	
8 Brindabella Blues	17	0	0	17	10	121	-110	0	

Belconnen United 1 (Dustin Wells 20')
Canberra City 1 (David Dexter 86')

Monaro Panthers 0 Cooma Tigers 1
(Serdan Bircan 55')

Woden Valley 1 (Lukas Cole 34')
Canberra FC 6 (Alex Castro 11, 55',
Stephen Lee 29', Guuven Can 43', 50',
Adam Adhami 90')

Goulburn Strikers 1 (Antipas Ojwang
90+2') Tuggeranong United 2 (Mark
Shields 65', 88')

Canberra Olympic 1 (Robbie Shroder
23') ANU FC 1 (Tom Rogic 77')

The Tradies Women's Premier League

Woden Valley 3 (Emma Thornton 8'
(pen), Catherine Brown 49', Ashleigh
Palombi 78') Belwest Foxes 1 (Cian
Maciejewski 4')

Brindabella Blues 1 (Kim Simpson 3')
Belconnen United 9 (Caitlin Munoz
15', 21', 43', 70', Katie Woodman 23',
76', Amy Spence 35', Maja Blasch 83',
Ilahna Atchison 85')

Canberra FC 0 ANU WFC 0

Weston Creek 1 (Amanda Auroousseau
20') Tuggeranong United 0



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Victorian Metropolitan League & Women's Results

MENS METROPOLITAN LEAGUE NORTH-WEST
 Heidelberg Stars 3 (AM Ahmad M Hassan) Ascot Vale 0, Light Utd 9 (E Ozkan C Kural AK Koc F Gurkan E Seogin) Keon Park 2, Tullamarine Jets 2 (H Aksoy H Azer) Yarra Jets 2 (E Grabben 2), Moreland Wolves 6 (M Denezakig N. Velucci P Richman 2) Oak Park 0, Altona North 2 (A Whatmore D Byrnes) Northern Utd 1 (K Smoll), Reserves Heidelberg Stars 2 Ascot Vale 1, Light Utd 6 Keon Park 2, Tullamarine Jets 9 (M Parik U Cicek O Kuruy 3 A Turkmen O Ernie 3) Yarra Jets 0, Moreland Wolves 3 Oak Park 3, Altona North 2 Northern Utd 2

MENS METROPOLITAN LEAGUE SOUTH-EAST
 Harfield Hurricanes Dandenong Warriors, Caulfield Grammarians 3 (M Davies D Hiles 2) Ringwood City 5 (T Munro 2 E Frans 2), Middle Park FC 4 (J Harding G Mokenna 2 M Forness) St Kevins 0 Old Mentonians Parkmore, Reserves Harfield Hurricanes Dandenong Warriors, Caulfield Grammarians 3 Ringwood City 2, Middle Park FC 2 St Kevins 1 Old Mentonians Parkmore

WOMENS STATE LEAGUE DIV 1 Whitehorse Utd 1 (A Collier) Doncaster Rovers 2 (A Dickson R Zabie) Bayswater Strikers Bundoora Utd Ballarat & District 2 (SJ Gentle) Monbulk 1 (S Maisey), Uni of Melbourne 3 (K Walters M Broadbent-Hogan N Vincent) South Springvale 2 (M Saline 2), Reserves Whitehorse Utd 0 Doncaster Rovers 9, Bayswater Strikers Bundoora Utd Jnl. of Melbourne 1 South Springvale 2

WOMENS STATE LEAGUE DIV 2 NORTH-WEST
 Darebin Falcons 2 (N Leitch 2) Western Suburbs 1 (A Giamandis), Cairns 13 (T Hussein 3 D Mul-lu 6 H Hassan M Huremovic Y Laili 2) Melbourne Bears 0, La Trobe University 12 (N Carter SA Har-jis S N Lalla V Pettit 4) Whittlesia Ranges FC 0

WOMENS STATE LEAGUE DIV 2 SOUTH-EAST
 Ashburton 8 Benwick City 1, Mornington 1 (SE Hutherson) Mooroolbark 3 (C Hunter CB Padli), Noble Park 1 (A Vasiljevic) North Caulfield 1 (R Rubenstein), Monash University 0 Albert Park 1 (T Kiddie), Southern Suburbs 3 (T Moutafis K Sorcia Sandringham 2 (C Noone)

WOMENS STATE LEAGUE DIV 3 NORTH-WEST
 Eltham Redbacks 2 (KM Hodgson C Williver) Brunswick Zebras 2 (Y Melica-Perez), Maribymong Utd 4 (G Mandola) Old Carey 2, Yarra Jets 7 (E Garner M Flannery 3 a callaghan 2) Kyneton District 1 (KJ Dick- ings), Sunahina George Cross 0 Kellor Park 8 (M Emond 5 L Street KH Nguyen A Pratt), Diamond Valley Utd 6 (A McMillan 2 S Gooney 3) Melton 2 (B Solberras)

WOMENS STATE LEAGUE DIV 3 SOUTH-EAST
 Beaumaris 0 South Melbourne 3 Endeavour Utd 3 (L Mouscos 2) Ashburton 1 (M Mur-ray) East Bentleigh 0 Seaford City 3, Croydon City Arrows 1 Langwarrin 0, Knox City 0 Box Hill Inter 5

WOMENS METROPOLITAN LEAGUE NORTH-WEST
 Northern Rovers 1 Brunswick Zebras 8 (EK Johns K Palmer R King 5 BAMPPherson 2), Melbourne Knights 2 (A Cassar) Brunswick City 3 (S Rawlings 2 L Whyte), Plenty Valley Lions 0 Watsonia Heights 2 (G Cahill S McGraw),

WOMENS METROPOLITAN LEAGUE SOUTH-EAST
 Benwick City Sandringham, Croydon City Arrows 2 Eltham Redbacks 2, Endeavour Hills 1 (M Barba-Joquin) Kingston City 5 (S Palambets M Oungini 2 B Pypier 2)

WOMENS METROPOLITAN LEAGUE CENTRAL
 Whittlesia Zebras 2 (M Bonedillo L Plingitore) Uni. of Melbourne 1 (V Babicheva), Monash University 3 (R Drew JP Gibson L Hardy) Albert Park 0, Bayside Argonauts 2 (CA Brunton 2) Swinburne University WSC 1

MENS THIRDS LEAGUE DIV 1 Altona Lions 2 La Trobe University 1, Doveton 0 Kyneton District 3 Southern Suburbs 2 Monash University 3 (A Argomand N Chades D Riviere), South Yarra 3 Cleland Utd 0,

MENS THIRDS LEAGUE DIV 2 NORTH-WEST
 Brunswick City 1 Moreland City 3, Kellor Park 7 Upfield 1

MENS THIRDS LEAGUE DIV 2 SOUTH-EAST
 Old Melbourne 2 Caulfield Grammarians 1, Benwick City 1 Nunawading City FC 0, South Yarra 3 Central Park AC Malvern 2, Old Scotch 7 Old Camberwell Grammar 1

MENS THIRDS LEAGUE DIV 3 NORTH-WEST
 Plenty Valley Lions 6 Melton 1, Northcote City 4 Hoppers Crossing 4, Lalor 1 Jnl. of Melbourne

MENS THIRDS LEAGUE DIV 3 SOUTH-EAST
 Old Melbourne 2 Caulfield Grammarians 1, Benwick City 1 Nunawading City FC 0, South Yarra 3 Central Park AC Malvern 2, Old Scotch 7 Old Camberwell Grammar 1

MENS THIRDS LEAGUE DIV 4 NORTH-WEST
 South Springvale 16 7 1 8 39 27 22
 Monbulk 16 4 5 7 18 48 7
 Snellville 16 3 3 10 25 43 12
 Brighton 15 2 0 15 11 45 6
 15 1 2 12 8 51 4

MENS THIRDS LEAGUE DIV 4 SOUTH-EAST
 South Yarra 16 5 2 9 24 49 17
 Skye Jld 14 4 1 9 15 41 13
 Sandringham 15 4 1 10 17 72 13
 Monash University 15 0 0 15 7 76 0

MENS THIRDS LEAGUE DIV 5 NORTH-WEST
 Cairns 15 11 0 3 55 11 34
 La Trobe University 14 11 0 3 55 12 33
 FC Buteen Lions 13 9 2 2 38 8 29
 North Geelong Warriors 15 9 1 5 34 12 28
 Western Suburbs 16 5 1 10 19 39 16
 Darabini Falcons 15 4 1 10 18 45 13
 Melbourne Bears 15 1 1 13 5 80 4
 Whittlesia Ranges FC 15 0 1 14 10 72 1

MENS THIRDS LEAGUE DIV 5 SOUTH-EAST
 Brighton Grammarians 1 Dandenong Thunder 6, Middle Park FC 5 Old Carey 2, East Bentleigh 0 Keysborough 5, Buryip & District Soccer Club 9 Frankston Pines 5,

MENS THIRDS LEAGUE DIV 6
 Old Scotch 0 Sandringham City 1 6,
 MENS MASTERS NORTH-WEST Heidelberg Utd 2 Banyule City 2, Moreland City 2 Fitzroy City 3,
 MENS MASTERS SOUTH-EAST Southern Suburbs 1 White Star Dandenong 3,

MENS MASTERS CENTRAL
 Old Boys 8 Brighton 2, Ashburton 6 Caulfield Cobras 1, Middle Park FC 2 Beaumaris 1,
 Mens Metropolitan League North-West Reserves
 P W D L F A P T
 Moreland Wolves 18 12 3 3 49 17 39
 Tullamarine Jets 18 9 6 3 39 20 33
 Light Utd 17 9 4 4 36 25 31
 Heidelberg Stars 18 9 5 4 31 21 31
 Yarra Jets 17 7 5 5 39 29 26
 Altona North 18 7 5 6 36 36 26
 Oak Park 16 6 6 6 39 36 18
 Keon Park 16 4 3 11 29 64 15
 Northern Utd 16 2 4 12 20 36 10
 Ascot Vale 18 1 5 12 15 49 7

Mens Metropolitan League South-East
 P W D L F A P T
 Moreland Wolves 18 12 3 3 49 17 39
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 Oak Park 16 6 6 6 39 36 18
 Keon Park 16 4 3 11 29 64 15
 Northern Utd 16 2 4 12 20 36 10
 Ascot Vale 18 1 5 12 15 49 7

Mens Metropolitan League Central
 P W D L F A P T
 Moreland Wolves 18 12 3 3 49 17 39
 Tullamarine Jets 18 9 6 3 39 20 33
 Light Utd 17 9 4 4 36 25 31
 Heidelberg Stars 18 9 5 4 31 21 31
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 Keon Park 16 4 3 11 29 64 15
 Northern Utd 16 2 4 12 20 36 10
 Ascot Vale 18 1 5 12 15 49 7

MENS THIRDS LEAGUE DIV 3 SOUTH-EAST
 Riversdale 2 Monash University 1 (A Karam),
 Brandon Park 3 Central Park Rangers 2,
 MENS THIRDS LEAGUE DIV 4 NORTH-WEST Cairns 3 Altona City 7, Williamstown 1 Kyneton District 1,
 MENS THIRDS LEAGUE DIV 4 SOUTH-EAST South Yarra 4 Elwood City 1, Old Scotch 4 Monash University 1 (W Pua), Beaumaris 2 Marcellin Eagles 2

MENS THIRDS LEAGUE DIV 5 NORTH-WEST
 Melbourne University 2 Kyneton District 2, Moreland Wolves 2 Melbourne Bears 2, Altona City 6 Uni. of Melbourne 0,
 MENS THIRDS LEAGUE DIV 5 SOUTH-EAST Old Brighton Grammarians 1 Dandenong Thunder 6, Middle Park FC 5 Old Carey 2, East Bentleigh 0 Keysborough 5, Buryip & District Soccer Club 9 Frankston Pines 5,

MENS THIRDS LEAGUE DIVISION 6
 Old Scotch 0 Sandringham City 1 6,
 MENS MASTERS NORTH-WEST Heidelberg Utd 2 Banyule City 2, Moreland City 2 Fitzroy City 3,
 MENS MASTERS SOUTH-EAST Southern Suburbs 1 White Star Dandenong 3,

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 Light Utd 17 9 4 4 36 25 31
 Heidelberg Stars 18 9 5 4 31 21 31
 Yarra Jets 17 7 5 5 39 29 26
 Altona North 18 7 5 6 36 36 26
 Oak Park 16 6 6 6 39 36 18
 Keon Park 16 4 3 11 29 64 15
 Northern Utd 16 2 4 12 20 36 10
 Ascot Vale 18 1 5 12 15 49 7

Mens Metropolitan League Central
 P W D L F A P T
 Moreland Wolves 18 12 3 3 49 17 39
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 Oak Park 16 6 6 6 39 36 18
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Mens Metropolitan League South-West
 P W D L F A P T
 Moreland Wolves 18 12 3 3 49 17 39
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Mens Metropolitan League South-East
 P W D L F A P T
 Moreland Wolves 18 12 3 3 49 17 39
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 Light Utd 17 9 4 4 36 25 31
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Mens Metropolitan League South-East
 P W D L F A P T
 Moreland Wolves 18 12 3 3 49 17 39
 Tullamarine Jets 18 9 6 3 39 20 33
 Light Utd 17 9 4

4

Victorian Junior Results & Ladders

Doncaster Rovers	16	5	5	6	24	28	20
Oakleigh Cannons	16	4	5	7	23	26	17
Boroondara Eagles	16	3	3	13	24	40	12
Mooroolbark	15	1	0	14	13	89	3

Boys	East	-	North	East	14	C
	P	W	D	L	F	A PT
Eastern Lions	18	13	2	1	69	15 41
Knox City	16	13	2	1	65	20 20
Boroondara Eagles	14	10	2	2	45	17 32
Doncaster Rovers	16	9	2	5	34	23 29
Ringwood City	15	7	1	7	35	30 22
Eltham Redback FC	15	4	3	8	26	51 15
Ashburton	15	3	2	10	11	49 11
Glen Waverley	14	3	2	9	26	48 11
Croydon City Arrows	15	3	2	10	19	51 11
Riversdale	10	0	4	12	19	64 4

Boys	East	-	North	East	14	D	
	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Bunyip & District Soccer Club	15	15	0	0	165	6	45
Boroondara	15	11	1	3	77	36	34
DOC Ltd	14	9	4	7	28	27	28
Glen Waverley	16	9	0	7	64	43	27
Whitehorse Utd	16	6	0	11	26	68	5
Ashburton	12	4	0	8	25	57	12
Rowville Eagles	14	4	1	9	21	94	10
Doncaster Rovers	16	0	1	15	91	23	1

Boys	East	-	North	East	15	A
	P	W	D	L	F	A P T
FC Bullion Lions	16	14	1	1	80	9 43
Oakleigh Cannons	15	12	2	1	54	18 38
Monash City	15	9	3	3	49	17 30
Croydon City Arrows	15	6	4	5	20	25 22
Riversdale	16	6	4	6	19	24 22
Doncaster Rovers	5	6	2	7	25	16 20
Box Hill Inter	15	5	2	8	28	43 16
Glen Waverley	15	1	1	9	16	42 8
Moorebank	15	1	4	10	4	29 7
Knox City	15	0	1	14	8	70 1

Boys	East	-	North	East	5	8	
	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
FC Britlen Lions	14	12	2	0	48	10	38
Manningham	4	8	2	4	18	29	26
Boroondara Eagles	14	7	3	4	28	21	24
Ringwood City	14	8	4	4	29	20	22
Croydon City Arrows	12	6	1	5	20	25	19
Knox Utd	14	8	1	5	30	25	19
Sherbrooke Rangers	14	8	0	6	29	42	8
Eastern Lions	15	1	3	11	23	45	5
Ashburton	14	1	2	11	14	53	5

Boys	Fast	North	East	15	C				
		P	W	D	L	F	A	P	T
Whitehorse Utd		15	12	2	1	57	17	38	
Eltham Redback FC		15	8	2	4	32	5	29	
DOC Ltd		14	8	2	3	35	5	29	
Brandan Park		15	8	2	4	33	27	29	
Oakleigh Cannons		16	7	2	7	36	21	23	
Riversdale		16	3	3	10	20	37	11	
Doncaster Rovers		14	2	1	11	19	41	7	
Rowville Eagles		15	1	2	12	18	74	1	

Boys	East	-	North	East	15	D
	P	W	D	L	F	A P T
Manningham	16	14	1	1101	20	43
Boroondara Eagles	16	10	2	4	58	18 32
Glen Waverley	15	9	2	4	50	26 29
Knox Utd 1	15	9	1	5	57	31 28
Boroondara	16	7	5	4	43	28 26
Mooroolbark 1	16	7	2	8	46	35 23
Knox Utd 2	16	6	2	8	46	5 20
Ashburton	15	5	0	10	34	44 5
Eastern Lions	15	2	2	11	22	84 7
Mooroolbark 2	15	0	0	15	11	68 0

Boys	East	-	North	East	16	A
	P	W	D	L	F	A
Knox City	16	12	3	49	20	3
FC Bullion Lions	16	11	3	2	15	36
Box Hill Inter	16	1	2	3	65	14
Oakleigh Cannons	13	9	0	6	46	4
Glen Waverley	16	5	3	7	70	6
Ringwood City	15	4	2	9	37	48
DOC Ltd	15	3	1	11	9	51
Riversdale	16	2	1	13	8	73

Boys	East	-	North	East	16	B	
	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Doncaster Rovers	13	12	1	0	43	12	37
Whitehorse Utd	14	6	2	6	25	12	12
Northcote City FC	13	10	1	2	15	19	28
Waverley Wanderers	11	8	2	1	32	10	26
Boroondara Eagles	11	7	1	3	44	4	22
Essendon Lions	12	8	3	1	34	11	21
Knox City	12	6	2	4	42	28	21
Rowville Eagles	13	6	3	4	44	8	8
Eltham Redback FC	13	3	3	7	41	38	1
Glen Waverley	14	3	2	9	4	45	11

Boys East - North	East	16	C				
Doncaster Rovers	P W D L F A PT						
Whitehorse Utd	14	7	2	5	12	12	
Northcote City FC	13	10	1	2	15	19	28
Waverley Wanderers	11	8	2	7	32	10	26
Boroondara Eagles	11	7	1	3	44	4	22
Essendon Lions	12	8	3	4	34	11	21
Knox City	12	6	2	4	42	28	21
Rowville Eagles	13	6	3	4	44	8	8
Eltham Redback FC	13	3	3	7	41	38	1
Glen Waverley	14	3	2	9	4	45	11
Mooroolbark	13	3	9	27	12	10	
Croydon City Arrows	13	0	1	15	16	94	4
Sherbrooke Rangers	15	0	0	15	51	9	0

Boys North	West	12	A				
Essendon Royals	P W D L F A PT						
Glen Utd	14	1	2	7	4	4	
Traralgon City	10	2	3	2	3	2	
Traralgon Zebras	14	7	4	3	15	19	26
Traralgon Heights	13	6	2	5	16	25	18
Traralgon Vale	13	5	3	5	2	20	18
Traralgon	14	4	3	6	4	15	
Traralgon	12	4	2	6	1	27	16

Boys East - North	East	16	D	1	1	1	4	4	4
Doncaster Rovers	P W D L F A PT								
Whitehorse Utd	14	7	2	5	12	12			
Northcote City FC	13	10	1	2	15	19	28		
Waverley Wanderers	11	8	2	7	32	10	26		
Boroondara Eagles	11	7	1	3	44	4	22		
Essendon Lions	12	8	3	4	34	11	21		
Knox City	12	6	2	4	42	28	21		
Rowville Eagles	13	6	3	4	44	8	8		
Eltham Redback FC	13	3	3	7	41	38	1		
Glen Waverley	14	3	2	9	4	45	11		
Mooroolbark	13	3	9	27	12	10			
Croydon City Arrows	13	0	1	15	16	94	4		
Sherbrooke Rangers	15	0	0	15	51	9	0		

Doncaster Rovers	16	2	0	4	81	0	4
Whitehorse Utd	16	1	1	15	11	57	4
Northcote City FC							
Waverley Wanderers							
Boroondara Eagles							
Essendon Lions							
Knox City							
Rowville Eagles							
Eltham Redback FC							
Glen Waverley							
Mooroolbark							
Croydon City Arrows							
Sherbrooke Rangers							

Boys East - North	East	16	F				
Doncaster Rovers	P W D L F A PT						
Whitehorse Utd	14	7	2	5	12	12	
Northcote City FC	13	10	1	2	15	19	28
Waverley Wanderers	11	8	2	7	32	10	26
Boroondara Eagles	11	7	1	3	44	4	22
Essendon Lions	12	8	3	4	34	11	21
Knox City	12	6	2	4	42	28	21
Rowville Eagles	13	6	3	4	44	8	8
Eltham Redback FC	13	3	3	7	41	38	1
Glen Waverley	14	3	2	9	4	45	11
Mooroolbark	13	3	9	27	12	10	
Croydon City Arrows	13	0	1	15	16	94	4
Sherbrooke Rangers	15	0	0	15	51	9	0

Boys East - North	15	1	5	13	11	81	4
Doncaster Rovers							
Whitehorse Utd	14	7	2	5	12	12	
Northcote City FC	13	10	1	2	15	19	28
Waverley Wanderers	11	8	2	7	32	10	26
Boroondara Eagles	11	7	1	3	44	4	22
Essendon Lions	12	8	3	4	34	11	21
Knox City	12	6	2	4	42	28	21
Rowville Eagles	13	6	3	4	44	8	8
Eltham Redback FC	13	3	3	7	41	38	1
Glen Waverley	14	3	2	9	4	45	11
Mooroolbark	13	3	9	27	12	10	
Croydon City Arrows	13	0	1	15	16	94	4
Sherbrooke Rangers	15	0	0	15	51	9	0

Boys	North	West	14				A		
			P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Brunswick City			15	1	3	1	48	11	36
Light Utd			15	1	0	4	29	7	33
Meibourne Phoenix			16	8	4	3	34	22	28
Moreland Jtd			16	8	1	7	50	36	21
Greenvale Utd			15	5	5	5	32	41	20
Moreland City			15	4	4	7	20	32	16
Essendon Royals			15	2	3	10	16	43	9
Brunswick Zebras			16	2	0	14	14	60	6

Boys	North	West	14	B				
Pascoe Vale		P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
North City Lions		15	10	4	1	74	29	34
plined		14	9	3	2	19	15	30
Hume Utd		14	8	2	3	1	73	26
Moreland City		14	1	7	5	4	74	24
Avondale Heights		14	6	1	8	12	22	21
Brunswick Zebras		14	4	5	4	3	26	1
Essendon Royals		14	5	3	4	25	1	20
Gisborne		14	1	2	12	5	4	
		14	0	3	13	12	15	0
Boys	North	West	15					

Brunswick Zebras 1	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Essendon Royals	13	11	1	1	107	6	34
Light Utd	15	7	1	7	24	13	
Brunswick Zebras 2	13	7	3	3	34	24	
Brunswick City	14	6	1	8	15	5	8
North City Lions	14	4	3	8	1	73	5
Fawkner	14	3	1	10	27	74	10
Moreland City	14	3	3	9	21	69	9
Moreland Utd	14	0	1	13	12	150	2

Boys	North	West	15	A				
		P	W	D	L	F	A	P

Fawkner	15	11	1	89	2	40
Meibourne Phoenix	15	10	1	49	28	33
Brunswick Zebras	15	9	4	54	25	29
Brunswick City	15	8	2	5	40	31
Brunswick City	15	7	3	5	47	21
Essendon Royals	15	5	3	8	29	36
Essendon Royals	16	5	5	6	1	4
Moreland Wolves						

Boys	North	West	16	B				
		F	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Greenvalley	16	11	2	2	79	28	35	
North City	16	10	1	5	62	33	33	

Boys	West-North	West	P	W	D	L	F	A	P	T
Meadow Park Eagles			5	11	3		68			
Werribee City			16	11	3		2	85		36
Essendon Royals			16	1	1		4	53	20	34
Greenvale Utd			15	9	2		4	57	14	24

Melton	15	9	2	4	44	10	29
Punt Cook FC	15	6	2	7	39	36	11
Satellite City Utd	16	5	2	9	26	48	17
Sunny Hills	6	5	1	10	2	50	16
Hoppers Crossing	15	2	0	11	14	78	6
Bacchus Marsh	15	4	0	15	6	109	0

Boys	West-North	West	15	B				
		P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Essendon Royals		16	16	0	0	114	7	48
Werribee City		15	12	0	0	163	1	36
Geelong City		16	11	2	3	35	34	5
Melton City		16	18	1	7	31	36	5



SENIORS
City 3 d Millicent 0
Goal scorers: City - T Grant 2, I Birch

United 1 d County d
Goal scorer: United - K Seiler

Palace 13 d Villa 0
Goal scorers Palace • E Thompson 3, S McCarthy 2, A Piven 2, K Mann 2, M Davis-McCarthy 2, T Koop, C Dickens

Wanderers 3 d Portland 0
Goal scorers Wanderers - K.Jenz-Waiker 2, M.
Janneila

City 3 d Millicent 1
Goal scorers City - J Stephenson 3 Millicent

Wanderers 2 d Palace 0
Goal scorers. Wanderers - M Sims, M Iannella

Goal scorers, Villa - J Wood 2, J Donaldson, N Koczak

Inter Odds On For Minor Premiership

By Niki Cook

Plenty of drama in the penultimate round of the Victorian Women's Premier League, with late goals deciding the outcome of all four matches.

The minor premiership is yet to be determined after Heidelberg and Box Hill drew, but things look bleak for Preston Lions after it lost what was effectively the relegation decider against Altona City. Casey defeated Ashburton to keep its finals hopes alive, while South Melbourne and Sandringham shared the points.

With just a point separating Preston Lions and Altona City at the foot of the ladder going into the weekend, and one of the two certain to be relegated, the match at BT Connor Reserve was one that neither team could afford to lose.

Spectators were at least guaranteed some attacking football though, as with one game still to play, both teams had to also actually try and win, to give themselves the best chance of avoiding the drop. Neither side went into the match with any real form, with both having lost at least their last two matches, but it was Altona that was able to gain the ascendancy in the first half, scoring on the stroke of half time to give it the lead at the break. Preston fought back in the second half, levelling the score with ten minutes to go, but there was more drama yet, with the visitor scoring its second four minutes

from time to record its third win of the season. The victory lifts Altona to eleven points and above Preston, which has nine points. With Altona facing Bendigo next week, and Preston taking on Heidelberg, it would take a minor miracle to prevent Preston from being relegated.

Meanwhile, at Olympic Village, Box Hill Inter and Heidelberg United were engaged in a battle at the other end of the ladder, to determine which of the two would take out the minor premiership.

For the majority of the match, it seemed that Inter would wrap up its third consecutive first-place finish, with Aimee Benton giving the visiting side the lead on the half hour, before doubling both her and Inter's tally early in the second half. Heidelberg, however, refused to lie down, and produced a dramatic fight back to grab a share of the points.

The home side scored twice in the last fifteen minutes of the game, through Melanie Camilleri and Meghan Archer, to secure its second draw in three matches. While United will be disappointed not to have won the match, the spirit and determination shown in getting back into the game will no doubt give it heart going into the finals. Box Hill Inter remains two points clear of Heidelberg at the top of the ladder, and needs only a draw in its final game to finish there and earn a home final.

With one spot in the finals still yet to be decided, the match between Casey Comets and Ashburton at Comets Stadium had extra significance, with those two teams battling it out for the all important fourth place. Neither side was able to find the net in the first half, with all the drama coming after the break. The home side grabbed the lead ten minutes after the interval, but Ashburton hit back almost immediately, with Christina Leland finding the net. The game looked destined for a draw, before Casey scored a dramatic winner in the last minute of the match. Jennifer Black and Alex Gummer were the scorers for Casey, which climbs to fifth on the ladder, two points behind Ashburton. If Casey wins next weekend, and Ashburton loses, the Comets will snatch a place in the finals right at the death.

The only match of the weekend with little at stake was at Melvor Reserve, between South Melbourne and Sandringham. Sandringham was still a chance to grab a top two finish, and the associated double chance in the finals, but it was also relying on Box Hill winning for that to happen. South had already secured its WPL status, and so was merely playing for pride. It was a game of few chances, but Alice Maxwell scored after ten minutes to give Sandringham the lead, and it looked on track for its tenth victory of the season. However, Marcela Marques equalised for the home side shortly before full time, to earn it a share of the points. The draw enabled South to continue its strong second half of the season, with it losing

just once since the last time these sides met. With Sandringham having the bye next weekend, its hopes of breaking into the top two have gone, and it must now wait to discover whether it will host Ashburton or Casey in the Elimination Final. It's a rare event in the WPL, but this season the competition enters the final round with plenty still to be determined. The minor premiership, the fourth spot in the finals, and relegation will all be decided next Sunday afternoon, with all matches kicking off at 1pm. Ashburton hosts South Melbourne at Ashburton Park, needing at least a draw to guarantee it finishes in the fourth position it has occupied for much of the season. Heidelberg United takes on Preston Lions at Olympic Village with plenty at stake - United need a win to stand a chance of snaring the minor premiership, while Preston must win and hope Altona fail to win in order to avoid relegation. Old foes Casey Comets and Box Hill Inter clash at Comets Stadium, with Casey needing to win and for South to defeat Ashburton to take out fourth spot on the ladder, while Inter will claim the minor premiership with a draw or better. Altona City and Bendigo Vipers meet at HC Kim Reserve, with Altona knowing that a victory will guarantee its WPL status for another season. Sandringham, which has the bye, must sit back and watch the proceedings unfold, safe in the knowledge that it cannot finish anywhere other than third.

**Preston Lions 1
Altona City 2**

**Heidelberg Utd 2
(M Camilleri M Archer)
Box Hill Inter 2 (A Benton 2)**

**Casey Comets 2
(J Black A Gummer)
Ashburton 1 (C Leland)**

**South Melbourne Womens 1
Sandringham 1**

**Reserves:
Preston Lions 1 Altona City 2,
Heidelberg Utd 0 Box Hill Inter 2,
Casey Comets 0 Ashburton 2,
South Melbourne 3 Sandringham 0**

**Ashburton v South Melbourne Womens
Ashburton Park
Sun 22 Aug KO 1:00PM**

**Heidelberg Utd v Preston Lions
Olympic Village
Sun 22 Aug KO 1:00PM**

**Casey Comets v Box Hill Inter
Comets Stadium
Sun 22 Aug KO 1:00PM**

**Altona City v Bendigo Vipers
HC Kim Reserve
Sun 23 Aug KO 1:00PM**

Bye v Sandringham

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Box Hill Inter	15	10	4	1	42
Heidelberg Utd	15	10	2	3	32
Sandringham	16	9	3	4	30
Ashburton	15	7	1	7	22
Casey Comets	15	6	2	7	20
Bendigo Vipers	15	5	3	7	18
South Melbourne	15	4	4	7	16
Altona City	15	3	2	10	11
Preston Lions	15	2	3	10	9

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ashburton	15	12	2	1	62	12	38
Box Hill Inter	15	9	2	4	44	14	28
South Melbourne	15	8	3	4	30	15	27
Casey Comets	14	8	2	4	27	12	26
Sandringham	16	6	5	5	22	29	23
Heidelberg Utd	14	6	4	4	28	18	22
BASL	15	3	2	10	12	49	11
Altona City	15	2	3	10	15	37	9
Preston Lions	15	1	3	12	8	62	3

For more WPL news visit Emma Field's blog <http://fromthebackline.blogspot>.



WPL weekend action from the top of the table - 2 draw between Heidelberg and Box Hill Inter at Sandringham. PHOTO: PETER PSARROS

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Dominant Eagles Go Five Points Clear

By Aritro Abedin

In Round 18 of State League 1 the all-conquering White Eagles continued their superb form to go even further ahead at the top of the league. Meanwhile Fawkner, Bulleen and Pascoe Vale all dropped points in a round that saw the race for the coveted second promotion spot open up even more.

Pascoe Vale's promotion hopes were dealt a blow as they slumped to a disappointing 2-1 defeat at home to St Albans, a result which now sees them sitting in 6th place with three points separating them and second placed Bulleen. Pascoe Vale went into the game having suffered injuries to two of their recognized defenders, and they were forced into a daring tactical re-shuffle, deploying just the three men in defence.

The two sides were also at the mercy of horrific conditions with rain and blustery winds combining to make it a most unpleasant afternoon for both players and fans, but the weather did hand Pascoe Vale an early gift when Jason Principato's first half cross swerved wildly and flew into the net past a despairing St Albans goalkeeper. However, the home side were unable to make the most of their 1-0 half-time lead, with Goran Jozeljic pulling one back for the visitors before Michael Grgic stunned the Vale with a 90th minute winner.

George Kakaletsis lamented on the ongoing injury crisis which has severely compromised his side's season. 'We're even worse off than we were last week. I know I say this every week, and everyone's got injuries, but we went into the game with two recognized defenders missing. We really wanted the three points yesterday, and we were forced to gamble a little bit and play three at the back.'

However, Pascoe Vale's season is far from over in what has been a remarkably tight division, and Kakaletsis knows that his charges still have ample opportunity to secure promotion this season. 'We're still in it. We still have to play Bulleen and we're quite confident against bulleen at home, and we've also got Springvale at home. To be honest I'm quite confident going into every game because we have a good side. Some of the other results went our way and we're still in it.'

Bulleen Lions went to Kevin Bartlett Reserve surely viewing Clifton Hill as reasonably easy pickings in their quest to put a buffer between themselves in the pack of clubs chasing 2nd place. However, as has happened so often this season in this unpredictable division, the less fancied side made a mockery of the formbook with a spirited display that earned them a valuable point.

Steven Mrkela gave his team the advantage in the 35th minute as his free-kick nestled in the back of the net, however the Bulleen keeper had a legitimate complaint against the three-men who made up the wall. Junior Adielson then restored parity twenty minutes into the second half as his cheeky free-kick curled around

the wall along the ground and beat the bemused Clifton Hill keeper.

Both sides had everything to play for in the final half an hour with Bulleen chasing promotion at one end and Clifton Hill attempting to avoid relegation at the other, but despite some vibrant football neither team were able to claim the three points. The match was played in conditions that were entirely un-conducive to Bulleen's European style of play, and Nick Crivelli acknowledged this fact after the game. 'The ground was probably the biggest downplayer of it all, it wasn't in good condition and we couldn't really show our quality. But we still had our chances and we couldn't put them away.' The Lions have a chance to make amends when they play Gus McLeod's stuttering Langwarrin side next week, and Crivelli expects his side to make a better fist of their defensive pressing game. 'We need to put on a lot more pressure. If you pressurize well and force them to make mistakes- well that's the secret to winning games.'

Meanwhile the all-conquering Springvale White Eagles side made the most of other results with a comprehensive 3-1 win over Langwarrin that now takes them five points clear at the top of the league. Caleb Nichols continued his outstanding form for Langwarrin with a first half goal that saw the two sides go into the half-time break at a 1-1 deadlock, but the White Eagles class and poise ultimately came to the fore as they ran out 3-1 winners. Rados Tomic scored what must have been a satisfying goal against his former club.

Gus McLeod was philosophical about the result after the game, paying tribute to the quality of the table-topping Springvale side. 'White eagles were the better side so we've got no complaints at all. The reason they're top-of the league is because they're a very good side, and that's also the reason there's 10 points between us and them.' To outside observers Langwarrin would appear to have lost their way this season, with promotion appearing to be a very realistic target for them a mere month ago.

However McLeod has no complaints about the course his side's season has taken, hinting that his club's internal ambitions for this term were not as lofty as was thought. 'The Preston result means we can't get relegated, so we're happy just to stay here next year and we'll just regroup. We've got a very young side so we're building a team here. There's also plenty of teams below us who'd like to be in our position. It's a competitive league, and to be honest we just didn't have the personnel to get promoted but all credit to the teams that are battling up there.'

In other results, Malvern City inflicted a shock 4-2 reverse on Fawkner Blues which lifts them off the foot of the table, while lowering Fawkner to fifth. Meanwhile Whittlesea and Preston fought out a 0-0 draw and Lorenz Kindner's Western Suburbs hammered North Geelong Warriors in a stunning 4-1 performance that now places them level on points with second placed Bulleen.



Langwarrin's Vinnie Bontemps (left) makes a determined effort to beat Grujo Mrdic (SWE) to the ball. PHOTO: JOHN PUNSHON



Langwarrin's Alex Van Heerden (left) and White Eagles' Paul Maghlar get their heads together. PHOTO: JOHN PUNSHON



Langwarrin keeper Chris Jones gets down and dirty for the team as Lewis Karanicolas (SWE), with Vinnie Bontemps on his heels threatens

Fawkner Blues 2
(B Koca R Dolevski)
Malvern City 4
(A Varvaras S Groom)

FC Clifton Hill 1 (S Mrkela)
FC Bulleen Lions 1
(A Ramzy)

Langwarrin 1
Springvale White Eagles 3

Pascoe Vale 1
(J Principato)
St Albans Saints 2
(G Jozeljic M Grgic)

Whittlesea Zebras 0
Preston Lions 0

Western Suburbs 4
(E Kaya 2 CP Woods)
North Geelong Warriors 1
(R Zadworny)

Under 21s:
Fawkner Blues 3 Malvern City 0,
FC Clifton Hill 4 FC Bulleen Lions 3,
Langwarrin 3 Springvale White Eagles 2,
Pascoe Vale 3 St Albans Saints 2,
Western Suburbs North Geelong Warriors,
Whittlesea Zebras 3 Preston Lions 0

NEXT ROUND

Round 19
North Geelong Warriors v Fawkner Blues
Tue 20 Aug KO 8:30PM

Malvern City v FC Clifton Hill
Kingston Heath Soccer Complex
Sat 21 Aug KO 3:00PM

Preston Lions v Western Suburbs
B1 Connor Reserve
Sun 22 Aug KO 3:00PM

St Albans Saints v Whittlesea Zebras
Churchill Reserve
Sun 22 Aug KO 3:00PM

FC Bulleen Lions v Langwarrin
Vereto Social Club
Mon 23 Aug KO 8:30PM

Springvale White Eagles v Pascoe Vale
White Eagles Stadium
Mon 23 Aug KO 8:30PM

SL1 LADDER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Springvale White Eagles	18	11	3	4	34	19	36
FC Bulleen Lions	18	8	7	3	32	16	31
Western Suburbs	8	8	7	3	34	21	31
St Albans Saints	18	8	8	2	39	24	29
Fawkner Blues	18	8	4	6	28	24	28
Pascoe Vale	18	8	4	6	26	21	28
Langwarrin	18	8	2	8	28	35	26
North Geelong Warriors	18	7	4	7	26	20	25
Whittlesea Zebras	18	6	5	7	19	21	23
Preston Lions	18	3	4	11	19	38	13
Malvern City	18	4	1	3	15	48	13
FC Clifton Hill	18	3	3	12	21	34	12

SL1 U21 LADDER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Langwarrin	18	12	2	4	37	26	38
North Geelong Warriors	18	11	5	2	39	17	37
Pascoe Vale	18	12	0	6	31	27	36
FC Bulleen Lions	18	10	4	4	41	26	34
Springvale White Eagles	18	8	4	6	41	21	28
Whittlesea Zebras	17	7	4	6	31	26	25
Western Suburbs	18	6	3	7	25	46	20
St Albans Saints	18	7	1	10	28	32	19
Preston Lions	18	4	4	10	30	38	16
FC Clifton Hill	17	4	4	9	23	34	16
Malvern City	18	4	3	11	28	42	15
Fawkner Blues	18	2	4	2	14	37	10

RESULTS & LADDERS

Victorian State & Provisional Leagues - Round 18

Seniors

Port Melbourne 2 (R O'Hara J Di Lorio) Werribee City 1 (N Vucic), Altona East Phoenix 2 (B Stiffrics P Meletis) Banyule City 0, Ballarat Red Devils 2 (P McClounan S Winch) Williamstown 3 (M Oliveira M Maljanek 2), Moreland City 4 (K Simsek) Geelong Rangers 0, Sydenham Park 1 (P Dimovski) Altona City 2 (S Di Giacchino M Minton), Brunswick City 0 Whittlesia Ranges 2 (S Lamanca 2)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Port Melbourne	18	13	4	1	33	7	43
Whittlesia Ranges	18	10	7	1	34	15	37
Werribee City	18	8	3	6	25	21	30
Moreland City	18	9	2	7	34	30	29
Altona East Phoenix	17	7	5	5	26	17	26
Altona City	18	7	5	6	31	27	26
Williamstown	18	7	4	7	18	21	25
Brunswick City	17	7	3	7	22	22	24
Ballarat Red Devils	18	6	2	10	24	28	20
Banyule City	18	4	7	7	19	22	19
Sydenham Park	18	2	4	12	9	28	10
Geelong Rangers	18	2	2	14	8	47	8

STATE NORTH WEST 2

Port Melbourne 3 Werribee City 1, Altona East Phoenix 4 Banyule City 1, Ballarat Red Devils 3 Williamstown 3, Brunswick City 2 Whittlesia Ranges 0, Moreland City 3 Geelong Rangers 1, Sydenham Park 1, Altona City 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Whittlesia Ranges	18	14	2	2	47	19	44
Port Melbourne	18	12	3	3	32	18	39
Altona City	18	11	6	1	31	18	39
Ballarat Red Devils	17	10	2	5	43	27	32
Moreland City	15	10	2	3	31	23	32
Brunswick City	16	7	3	8	27	24	24
Werribee City	18	5	3	10	34	32	18
Williamstown	18	3	6	9	19	31	15
Sydenham Park	18	4	3	11	25	39	15
Geelong Rangers	17	3	5	9	19	37	14
Altona East Phoenix	17	4	0	13	20	35	12
Banyule City	18	2	3	13	14	39	9

Reserves

Doncaster Rovers 2 (P- Martins 2) Dandenong City 0, Frankston Pines 0, Heatherton Utd 1 (M Skenderovic), Casey Comets 2 (A Ciccone J Barnes) Southern Stars 2 (N Fox), Diamond Valley Utd 1 (D Mitevski) Eastern Lions 0, Knox City 0 Southern Suburbs 1 (K Oshaburto), Morwell Pegasus 2 (J Baldwin) Berwick City 2 (OA Mejias)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Southern Stars	18	12	6	0	43	19	42
Diamond Valley Utd	18	12	3	3	44	21	39
Casey Comets	18	10	3	5	41	32	33
Knox City	18	7	5	6	30	28	26
Heatherton Utd	17	7	5	5	27	25	28
Morwell Pegasus	18	8	2	8	38	41	26
Dandenong City	17	7	4	6	32	26	25
Eastern Lions	18	7	4	7	32	27	25
Doncaster Rovers	18	7	3	8	28	30	24
Southern Suburbs	18	4	3	11	25	38	15
Frankston Pines	18	4	1	13	18	45	13
Berwick City	18	1	3	14	12	38	6

Doncaster Rovers 3 Dandenong City 3, Frankston Pines 1, Heatherton Utd 1, Casey Comets 1, Southern Stars 4, Diamond Valley Utd 1, Eastern Lions 1, Knox City 1, Southern Suburbs 0, Morwell Pegasus 2, Berwick City 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Knox City	18	14	0	4	49	21	42
Diamond Valley Utd	18	13	1	2	49	17	40
Southern Stars	17	12	0	5	55	29	36
Eastern Lions	17	10	1	6	33	21	31
Berwick City	18	10	1	7	39	41	31
Casey Comets	18	8	3	7	30	27	26
Dandenong City	18	7	3	6	29	30	23
Doncaster Rovers	18	7	1	10	40	39	22
Morwell Pegasus	17	5	2	10	33	57	17
Heatherton Utd	14	3	2	9	15	27	11
Frankston Pines	17	3	1	13	20	48	10
Southern Suburbs	18	2	1	15	18	53	7

S

Geelong 1 (T Hardy) Kallor Park 0, Cairnlea 1 (A Alalic) Melbourne University 0, Lalor 1 (S Patkic) Hume Utd 1 (E Koc), Sunbury Utd 3 (V Ierardo D Mordaca P Shlop), Maribymong Greens 3 (A Vasiljevic), Yarraville Glory 1 (T Timotheou) La Trobe University 0, Westgate 6 (K Oluo-Acheampong V Kalyay H Nunez J D'Alessi 3) Essendon Utd 1 (L Christou)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Sunbury Utd	18	10	3	5	42	32	33
Geelong	17	10	2	5	38	27	32
Yarraville Glory	18	10	2	6	31	24	32
Kallor Park	18	9	5	4	27	20	32
Westgate	18	9	4	5	34	21	31
Cairnlea	17	9	1	7	40	24	28
Hume Utd	18	7	5	6	24	23	26
La Trobe University	18	6	3	7	28	29	21
Melbourne University	18	5	4	9	19	23	19
Lalor	18	2	8	8	48	32	14
Essendon Utd	18	2	6	10	25	51	12
Maribymong Greens	18	3	5	10	20	40	11

Geelong 1 Kallor Park 2, Cairnlea 1 Melbourne University 2, Lalor Hume Utd, Sunbury Utd 4 Maribymong Greens 2, Yarraville Glory 0 La Trobe University 1, Westgate 0 Essendon Utd 4

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Sunbury Utd	18	13	5	0	46	19	44
Kallor Park	18	13	1	4	63	27	40
La Trobe University	18	8	3	5	40	27	27
Melbourne University	18	8	2	8	39	27	26
Yarraville Glory	18	8	3	7	45	37	24
Cairnlea	17	7	3	7	45	43	24
Essendon Utd	18	6	5	7	45	43	23
Geelong	17	6	4	7	30	42	22
Lalor	17	6	4	7	36	51	22
Hume Utd	17	5	2	10	45	52	17
Westgate	18	3	2	13	28	53	11
Maribymong Greens	18	2	6	10	32	74	9

Brandon Park 2 (H Amernian N Theodore) Fitzroy City 1 (N Jones), Nunawading City FC 0 Croydon City Arrows 1 (B Thompson) Waverley Wanderers 1 (D Butler) Mornington 1 (S Verrum) Dandenong 1 (S Verrum) Hume Utd 1 (S Verrum) Springvale 2 (A Karanikas H Abdul Nobi Fakhri 1) C Du and N Salamandic North Caulfield 1 (Baver)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Noble Park Utd	18	13	3	2	41	21	42
South Springvale	17	11	3	3	42	21	38
Mornington	17	10	2	5	39	26	32
Kingston City	17	10	2	5	32	24	32
North Caulfield	18	8	1	9	37	39	25
Croydon City Arrows	18	7	4	7	26	28	25
Fitzroy City	17	7	3	7	35	34	24
Nunawading City FC	18	6	4	8	15	20	22
Peninsula Strikers	17	5	5	7	19	20	20
Springvale City	17	5	3	9	21	25	18
Waverley Wanderers	18	3	2	13	22	44	11
Brandon Park	18	2	4	12	21	39	7

Brandon Park 0 Fitzroy City 4, Nunawading City FC 2 Croydon City Arrows 2, Waverley Wanderers 1 Mornington 4, Springvale City 0 South Springvale 1, Noble Park Utd 1 North Caulfield 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Noble Park Utd	18	11	3	4	60	31	36
Croydon City Arrows	18	9	6	3	39	33	33
Mornington	17	9	5	3	43	23	32
Nunawading City FC	18	9	5	4	51	35	32
South Springvale	17	8	6	3	32	18	30
Fitzroy City	18	8	4	4	41	29	28
Kingston City	17	8	3	6	50	26	27
Peninsula Strikers	17	7	4	6	41	35	25
Springvale City	18	5	2	11	35	56	17
North Caulfield	17	4	1	12	30	49	13
Waverley Wanderers	17	2	3	12	21	54	8
Brandon Park	18	2	2	14	23	75	8

Avondale Heights Corio, FC Strathmore 1 (A Kranjic) Whittlesia Utd 2 (T Altanham S Akyni), Laverton Park 2 (R Castro 2) Melbourne City 0, North City Lions 1 (H Ntawirima) Elwood City 0, South Yarra 1 (A Varnis) Northern Falcons 3 (J Bogle BP Stevens), Westvale 1 (S Khem) North Sunshine Eagles 2 (G Musila F Ferzulla)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Corio	17	11	4	2	45	18	37
Avondale Heights	17	11	4	2	30	13	37
Whittlesia Utd	18	10	4	2	31	20	34
North Sunshine Eagles	18	9	2	7	32	24	29
Laverton Park	17	8	4	5	30	22	28
FC Strathmore	18	7	4	7	33	35	25
Westvale	18	7	3	8	21	20	24
North City Lions	18	5	3	10	16	23	18
Northern Falcons	18	5	6	7	16	23	18
Melbourne City	18	3	5	10	13	30	14
South Yarra	18	2	7	9	16	33	13
Elwood City	17	1	6	10	15	37	9

Avondale Heights Corio, FC Strathmore 2 Whittlesia Utd 1, Laverton Park 2 Melbourne City 0, North City Lions 1 Elwood City 1, South Yarra 4 Northern Falcons 2, Westvale 2 North Sunshine Eagles 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
South Yarra	18	13	1	4	41	21	40
FC Strathmore	18	12	2	4	36	25	38
Corio	17	11	3	3	36	14	36
Avondale Heights	17	10	5	2	52	18	35
Laverton Park	17	9	2	6	22	21	28
Whittlesia Utd	17	8	6	5	29	15	24
North City Lions	18	7	3	8	33	34	24
Elwood City	18	5	7	6	29	22	22
Westvale	18	5	4	9	33	49	19
North Sunshine Eagles	18	4	6	8	33	36	16
Melbourne City	18	2	0	16	19	75	6
Northern Falcons	18	0	5	13	21	48	2

Beaumaris 0 Warragul Utd 6, Doveton 4 Dandenong Sparrows 2, Monash University 2 (O Arannan Own Goal) Mooroolbark 0, Old Camberwell Grammar 1 Old Melbourne 2 Sandringham City 2 Boroondara Eagles 0 Scotch 5 (N W 1) Boroondara 3 Strangways Monbulk 1 (C Culmore)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Doveton	18	10	4	3	33	21	34
Old Scotch	18	9	6	3	37	17	33
Monash University	18	8	6	4	38	26	30
Mooroolbark	17	8	5	4	33	23	29
Old Melbourne	17	7	6	4	28	23	27
Warragul Utd	16	6	8	2	42	20	26
Dandenong Sparrows	18	6	8	2	33	39	20
Sandringham City	18	5	5	8	30	38	19
Beaumaris	17	5	4	8	18	37	19
Old Camberwell Grammar	18	5	3	8	25	36	14
Monbulk	18	3	5	10	25	43	14
Boroondara Eagles	17	2	6	9	18	35	11

Beaumaris 2 Warragul Utd 2, Doveton 14 Dandenong Sparrows 1, Monash University 2 (K Bibby M Kanyl) Mooroolbark 1, Old Camberwell Grammar 2 Old Melbourne 7 Sandringham City 2 Boroondara Eagles 1, Old Scotch 1 Monbulk 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Old Melbourne	17	14	0	3	46	21	42
Monash University	18	12	1	5	52	19	37
Doveton	18	10	4	4	45	27	34
Mooroolbark	17	8	2	7	31	21	26
Sandringham City	18	7	4	7	41	33	25
Monbulk	18	7	3	8	22	30	24
Boroondara Eagles	18	6	4	8	34	37	22
Beaumaris	17	4	6	7	29	32	18
Old Camberwell Grammar	16	5	3	9	15	25	18
Warragul Utd	17	4	6	8	34	37	17
Old Scotch	17	4	4	9	15	34	16
Dandenong Sparrows	18	3	4	11	30	79	13

Bell Park 1 (Rj Antoine) Lalor Utd 2 (V Avelasovski 2), Epping City 2 (M Tavoraro) Melton 1, Hoppers Crossing 0 Western Eagles 1 (M Kowalski), Melbourne Tornado 1 (R Blazevic) Collingwood City 2 (SD Oliver), West Preston Plenty Valley Lions, Surf Coast 1 (J Taylor) Moreland Utd 2 (A Babo 2)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Western Eagles	18	12	4	2	35	12	37
Surf Coast	18	10	4	4	41	20	34
Moreland Utd	18	10	4	4	32	19	31
Epping City	18	8	4	6	30	27	28
Lalor Utd	18	7	5	6	30	37	26
Hoppers Crossing	18	7	4	7	35	31	25
Plenty Valley Lions	17	7	4	6	22	33	25
Bell Park	18	6	4	8	37	29	22
West Preston	17	7	1	9	33	39	22
Melbourne Tornado	18	4	6	8	28	33	17
Collingwood City	18	3	4	11	20	42	13
Melton	18	3	3	12	20	41	12

Bell Park 0 Lalor Utd 2, Epping City 3 Melton 1, Hoppers Crossing 5 Western Eagles 1, Melbourne Tornado 2 Collingwood City 5, West Preston Plenty Valley Lions, Surf Coast 2 Moreland Utd 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Hoppers Crossing	18	11	5	2	44	18	35
Collingwood City	18	10	5	3	45	25	35
Epping City	18	10	2	6	42	35	32
Moreland Utd	18	8	4	5	35	25	26
Port Coast	18	8	2	8	37	27	26
Melton	18	7	5	6	27	27	26
Geelong Park	18	7	4	7	36	30	25
West Preston	17	6	5	6	30	31	23
Laurel Utd	17	7	2	9	31	32	23
Western Eagles	18	5	2	11	23	39	17
Twenty Valley Lions	17	3	4	10	18	44	13
Melbourne Tomcats	18	2	4	12	31	56	10



V-LEAGUE PREMIERSHIP

Champions Kiss The Season Goodbye

By Adam Hussein

After aligning the Inner City FC teams (such as gold lions & big cats) with V-League teams (such as Fitzroy & Pascoe Vale) we have built a club-like system at Futsal Oz, providing a pathway for all junior futsal players. Inner City teams now play 6pm curtain raisers before the six match V-League card to give Juniors a taste of prime time.

Inner City FC Premier League Round 2 Clash

FC Essendon 10 s 2 vs 4 North Melbourne FC 10 s

The boys started tentatively in a nervous opening. FC Essendon had multiple chances to score but found North goalkeeper Michael Campbell in fine form. North's strength & skill was too much for a young Essendon, and they went into the break 2-0 up. North controlled much of the second half and scored a third and fourth to Essendon's dismay. The reds fought back through Naso & Ministi and scored two goals in the dying stages of the game, a late consolation and an enjoyable game to watch!

Round 16 Review

FC Carlton 3 vs. 11 FC Prahran

Juan Toro & crew couldn't lose the FC Carlton curse as they lost 11-3 in another whitewash. Carlton played the entire 40 minutes without a substitute and really felt it in the dying stages. Maxim Avram was in the zone and scored no less than six goals, Pavouris, Ahmed & Armstrong chipped in with solitary goals and goal keeper Dima Shakhonov finally had a double to be proud of! Prahran headed for standard mud table mediocrity and will look to have a bite of the Souvlaki Hut Cup at seasons end. FC Carlton is one game closer to playing in the Sunday State League

Brimbank FC 3 vs. 8 Fitzroy FC

Brimbank in the purple battled the Fitzroy lions in the first of three title shaping matches for the evening. Fitzroy have been hit hard by several injuries at the focal point of the season and was coming off a bad loss to Albert Park the previous week. Brimbank were on cloud nine after beating Essendon the previous week and looked to derail Fitzroy's title hopes. Vadim Mazurskiy wasn't as effective as previous weeks scoring a double but misfiring several shots. Fitzroy debutants Lascaris, Tzintzas, Nabir & Hassanikhoo slotted in nicely and helped Fitzroy on their journey to a second V-League title. Brimbank need to secure at least another 10 points if they are any chance to survive relegation and will need to sort out some in-fighting in the next 7 days

Albert Park 8 vs. 8 Metropolitan

We've seen it all before, Metropolitan racing away to a 6-3 lead, dominating proceedings but not completely shutting out the opposition. It came back to bite them again with Albert Park storming home and



The Champions are rattled: Hader Noor tries his hardest to find an opening against 2009 Champions FC Essendon.



Metropolitan FC's Izard Spjodic fends off a determined Albert Park attack in a massive round 16 clash



Ahmed Azzam battles to no avail as Hume FC take a 3 points

snatching two precious points from the tie. Led by Ignat Filipovic, the royal blue had several stand out performers, four goals to Leo Papageorgiou, and stellar defensive work by Dejan Dragic & Iman Arjomand. Metropolitan were fantastic in spells and shared the ball and the goals around. They really need to settle on a style and core group of players that work for them. A fair result in the end, adding to the twists and turns for the title.

Pascoe Vale 7 vs 8 Essendon

Recent champions Pascoe Vale & Essendon have had some feisty battles in the last twelve months. This one was more of the same as both sides were fighting battles at opposite ends of the ladder. Pascoe Vale looking to close the gap on Fitzroy had Ernie Simsek missing, a vital cog in the black and white engine. Essendon had its consistent regulars which helped to a degree, of playing their 3-1 style with Alexander turning it on with a classy five goals. Essendon went into the break 5-2 up and once they hit a considerable lead just hung on for dear life. Pascoe Vale evidently panicked and rushed passes and narrowly missed shots they'd usually finish. Essendon needed to guarantee at least a relegation playoff and avoid immediate relegation, Pascoe Vale will need to win all their remaining games to stand any chances of winning back to back championships.

Ashburton FC 2 vs. 7 Hume FC

The second last game of the night saw the green machine Ashburton take on State League champions Hume. An entertaining clash, with end to end action, had fans on the edge of their seats. Luciano Bessa scored an unlikely goal from a corner to spare Ashburton's blushes after Dixon had scored first for Hume. Ashburton went into the break 2-1 down but lost their way to an energetic Hume side full of flavour. Dixon, Parlak, Tankur, Lamanda & Sahin all superstars combining effortlessly to dispatch of an individual Ashburton. It was rare to see Dimitri Vithoulkas play 40 minutes scoreless and likewise with Azzam. Ashburton missed the run and guile of Akal Abdullatif and look destined to finish midtable yet again. Hume has an impressive debut likely to finish 4th or 5th and will look to do well in the cup and improve next season.

Nth Melb 6 vs 8 Mickleham

North Melbourne meant business with Waterfield; Barrientos & Alnejad back in the side. They found themselves slugging out a goal for goal shootout with Mickleham. It was a clash of elite futsal players vs. elite footballers and both played a fantastic game. North Melbourne's class, guile and tactical nous shone through in the end, with three goals to clever Shayan Alnejad and two to Barrientos. On the other side of the scale Dushan Bosniak & Anthony Colosimo scored a double each pushing for possible state team selection. Ryan Filipovic has hit a purple patch for Mickleham, misfiring shots and passes. North keep their thin title hopes alive, and with the swing of two or three results North, Pascoe Vale & Metro

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Fitzroy FC	16	13	1	2	103	70	33	40
2 Metropolitan FC	16	10	4	2	137	95	42	34
3 Pascoe Vale FC	16	10	1	5	117	76	41	31
4 Nth Melbourne FC	16	10	1	5	85	63	22	31
5 Hume FC	16	9	2	5	82	64	18	29
6 Ashburton FC	16	8	0	8	98	93	5	24
7 FC Prahran	16	7	2	7	81	80	1	23
8 Mickleham FC	16	6	1	9	84	92	-8	19
9 FC Essendon	16	4	3	9	87	94	-7	15
10 Brimbank FC	16	4	3	9	84	95	-11	15
11 Albert Park FC	16	4	2	10	89	95	-15	14
12 FC Carlton	16	1	0	15	58	179	-121	3

Round 16 Results

- *6:30 FC Carlton v FC Prahran 3 - 11
- *7:15 Brimbank FC v Fitzroy FC 3 - 8
- *8:00 Albert Park FC v Metropolitan FC 8 - 8
- *8:45 Pascoe Vale FC v FC Essendon 7 - 8
- *9:30 Ashburton FC v Hume FC 2 - 7
- *10:15 Nth Melbourne FC v Mickleham FC 6 - 5

Round 17 Clashes

- *6:30 FC Essendon v Fitzroy FC
- *7:15 Ashburton FC v Mickleham FC
- *8:00 Brimbank FC v Metropolitan FC
- *8:45 Pascoe Vale FC v FC Prahran
- *9:30 Albert Park FC v Nth Melbourne FC
- *10:15 FC Carlton v Hume FC

V-League Top Scorers

1. Alexander Stevanovic FCE	40 goals
2. Vadim Mazurskiy BFC	41 goals
3. Alija Redzepovic MFC	32 goals
4. Leigh Minopoulos FFC	28 goals
5. Ryan Filipovic MKFC	28 goals

Round 16 Results

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 FC Collingwood	12	8	0	4	83	46	37	24
2 FC Melbourne	13	8	0	5	56	42	14	24
3 Elsternwick FC	12	7	1	4	58	55	3	22
4 Melbourne Uni FC	13	7	0	6	66	42	24	21
5 Doncaster FC	12	7	0	5	55	45	10	21
6 CF Brunswick	13	6	0	7	81	72	-11	18
7 FC Maribyrnong	12	5	0	7	39	67	-28	15
8 FC Geelong	12	4	0	8	55	50	5	12
9 FC Balwyn	13	3	1	9	48	102	-54	10

Round 16 Clashes

- *7:40 Doncaster FC v Melb Uni FC 2 - 7
- *8:20 Elsternwick FC v Balwyn FC 3 - 3
- *9:00 FC Collingwood v CF Brunswick 7 - 2
- *TBA FC Melbourne vs FC Geelong
- *Bye Maribyrnong FC v Bye

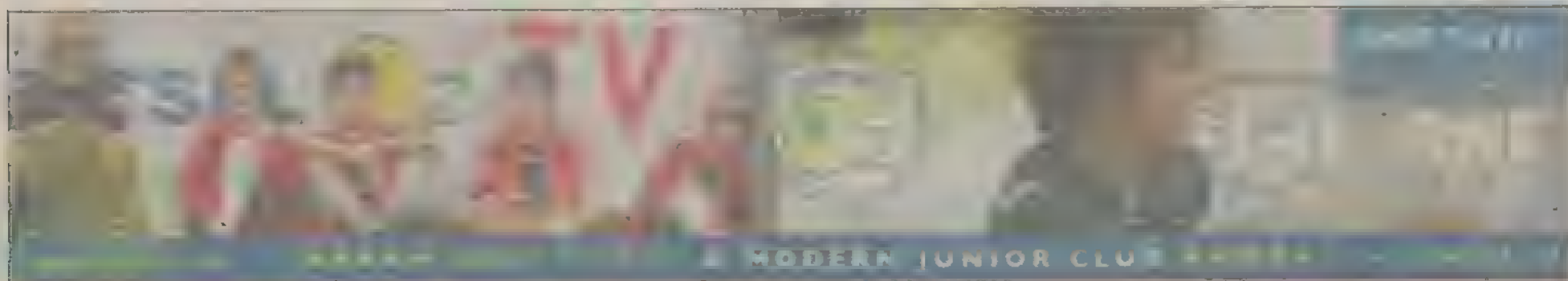
Round 16 Clashes

- *7:40 Elsternwick FC v CF Brunswick
- *8:20 FC Geelong v Melb Uni FC
- *9:00 Doncaster FC v FC Collingwood
- *9:40 FC Maribyrnong v FC Balwyn
- *Bye FC Melbourne v Bye

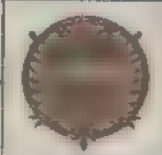
State Top Scorers

1. Cameron Holmes FCC	26 goals
2. Duke Duva MUFC	24 goals
3. Ahmed Badawy FFC	18 goals
4. Dima Nicheferenco FCC	15 goals
5. Chris Gospel FCM	14 goals

PHOTOS BY
Franco Lucchetti,
Nick Chippas, Steve Austin



DANDENONG THUNDER



0

HEIDELBERG UNITED



1

Match Details:

Dandenong Thunder: Stuart WEBSTER; Ben STAROSTA, Noel BAHNSEN, Levent OSMAN, Scott BULLOCH (James MUSCARA 83'), Veton KORCAREVSKI, Afrim AVDULAI (Chachi ELMAZI 79'), Shane REXHEPI, Kristopher KIOUSSIS, Ryan DAVIDSON, Dennis UKALOVSKI

Subs not used: Daniel NEE-SHAM, Feston AZIZI, Terjan IMEROVSKI

Yellow Cards: Davidson, Korcari, Elmazi

Red Cards: Elmazi (second Yellow card)

Heidelberg United: Steve TILOVSKI; Yared HAILEMELKOT, Paul MILLER, Yanni GALANOS (Les DOUMBALIS 74'), George SLEFENDORFAS (Nikolas KATSAKIS 90'), Josip KOZIC, Antonio LA VERDE, Luke BYLES, Craig ELVIN, Steve MARTIN, Osagie EDERARO

Subs not used: Christian MORALES, Matthew TANCEVSKI, Laurence GUGOROSSIS

Goal: Paul Miller 16'

Yellow Cards: Elvin, Kozic, Martin, Slefendorfas, Hailemelkot

Red Cards: Nil

Player of the Match: Craig Elvin (Heidelberg United)

Crowd: approx. 700, at SS Anderson Reserve, Port Melbourne

It's Miller Time for Finals-Bound Warriors

By JOHN FOTINOS

In a final round of 2010 regular season VPL matches filled with twists and turns, Heidelberg United has squeezed into fourth position on the table courtesy of a 1-0 victory over Dandenong Thunder.

Although officially a Dandenong home match, the game was played at Port Melbourne Sharks' home ground due to Dandenong's ground deemed unfit for play earlier in the week.

Both teams went into today's match knowing that only a win would keep their hopes of participating in this season's final series alive. However, as is the case at this time of the season, both sides were missing senior & experienced players due to injury, suspension or unavailability. A heavy shower just on kick-off meant somewhat greasy conditions would be the norm for the course of the match, with intermittent rain falling throughout the game.

It was Heidelberg United that began the more brightly of the teams, although it was Dandenong Thunder that fashioned the first shot on goal after six minutes. After some neat build up play on the right hand flank, Avdulai played the ball across to Starosa, whose effort from 20 metres flashed just wide of the post. For all their possession, Heidelberg could only manage a tame volley from striker Slefendorfas, with Webster hardly tested.

On the quarter hour mark a free kick was awarded to Heidelberg United deep on the left attacking flank. Kozic whipped the ball into the goalmouth area and in the ensuing scramble, the ball fell invitingly to Paul Miller. The diminutive midfielder lashed the ball home with his left foot to give Heidelberg United the lead with his goal, which ultimately would give his side all three



Heidelberg United sneak into the top five and now prepare for an assault on the main prize.

PHOTO: DANIEL FLIS

points.

In the 26th minute, Heidelberg's lead was almost doubled, with Hailemelkot hitting the crossbar with a shot that had Webster well beaten. For their part, Dandenong Thunder had a Korcari shot blocked desperately by Byles and on 40 minutes, a curling shot by Avdulai missed narrowly at the far post.

The second half saw Dandenong Thunder dominate possession without ever creating any real clear chances. In fact, the best chance fell to Korcari in the 50th minute of play following some casual play by Heidelberg 'keeper Tilovski. Korcari

chased down a ball deep on the left hand side, and with Tilovski looking to shepherd the ball over the line, the Dandenong captain robbed him of the ball, and from a narrow angle his shot on goal struck the outside of the near post & away for a goal kick, much to the relief of Tilovski.

With Heidelberg United on the back foot for much of the second half, they relied mainly on counter-attacks, which almost paid dividends in the 70th minute, when Slefendorfas was well thwarted by Webster in a one on one situation. Heidelberg substitute Doumbalis had a swerving shot well saved by Webster in the 79th

minute, and just on the final whistle, Hailemelkot was again denied by the crossbar following a dipping shot on goal.

Despite throwing everyone forward in the last 15 minutes, Dandenong Thunder was unable to break down the resolute Heidelberg United defence. With the Bergers 1-0 winners on the day, they claim fourth spot on the table and book a place in the finals action this year. Dandenong Thunder drop to seventh on the table, but can still make the final five with a win over Northcote City in the catch-up (replay) fixture versus Northcote City next Wednesday night.

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SUNSHINE GEORGE CROSS	
	0
SOUTH MELBOURNE	
	4

Match Details

FINAL SCORE: SUNSHINE GEORGE CROSS 0-4 SOUTH MELBOURNE (HT: 0-1)

Sunshine George Cross

Martin John, Shaun Romein, Peter Zois, Rama Tavsanciloglu, Eddie Celkin, Steven O'Dor, Rhodri Payne, Joe Keenan, Carl Recchia (Joseph Youssef 74'), Marinos Gasparis, Daniel Vasilevski (Sebastian Petrovic 87'), Fernando De Moraes (Kyle Joryeff 66'), Gianni De

South Melbourne

Peter Zois, Rama Tavsanciloglu, Eddie Celkin, Steven O'Dor, Rhodri Payne, Joe Keenan, Carl Recchia (Joseph Youssef 74'), Marinos Gasparis, Daniel Vasilevski (Sebastian Petrovic 87'), Fernando De Moraes (Kyle Joryeff 66'), Gianni De

Man of the Match: Fernando De Moraes (South Melbourne FC)

Venue: Knights Stadium
Date: Sunday 15 August 2010
Crowd: 500

South Grabs Fifth Spot As George Cross Relegated

By John Kyrrou

South Melbourne FC has climbed into the top five following a 0-4 away win over Sunshine George Cross at Knights Stadium in the final round of the VPL season on Sunday afternoon. South's win, along with other results in the League, means that George Cross has been relegated whilst South currently sits in fifth spot.

Both sides had early chances, with both goalkeepers called into action on a very wet and slippery Knights Stadium pitch. Fernando De Moraes eventually opened the scoring on 13 minutes with a beautifully taken left-footed shot from outside the area that gave Martin John no chance of saving. Sunshine almost replied instantly but missed a one-on-one opportunity. Sunshine almost gifted South a second goal with a defensive header that beat John but not the left goal post, with the ball going out for a corner.

In the second half, Sunshine's urgent need to press forward and score suited South fine, with the away side happy to soak up the pressure and play counter-attacking football. South missed a few good chances to seal the result before De Moraes eventually did so in the 61st minute, when a shot hit the crossbar and fell perfectly for him to smash past John for his second of the afternoon.

Carl Recchia added another



End of season goalmouth action between George Cross and South Melbourne. PHOTO: CINDY NITSOS

nail in Sunshine's coffin with a brilliantly taken free kick twenty minutes from time after a foul on Daniel Vasilevski. Recchia's wicked shot looped perfectly over the Sunshine wall and into John's top left corner of the net, leaving the George Cross custodian with no chance. Rama Tavsanciloglu ended the rout with South's fourth goal, after John saved the initial

shot but was unable to hold onto the ball, allowing South's captain to tap the ball over the line. Former Georgies player and South substitute Kyle Joryeff could have scored a fifth for South but his attempted chip over John went wide for a goal kick.

South currently sit in fifth position on the VPL ladder, however Dandenong and Northcote still

have to play a catch-up match at Veneto Club on Wednesday night. A draw in that match will see South stay in fifth whilst a victory for either Northcote or Dandenong will see that side knock South out of the finals, not taking the pending decision in the Supreme Court this week into consideration.



South finish off the home and away season with a 4-0 win over Sunshine George Cross at Knights Stadium.

NORTHCOTE CITY	
	3
HUME CITY	
	4

Match Details:

Northcote City:

C.Theodoridis-
Petropoulos, P.Savio,
A.Chiappetta,
A.Jankovski
(G.Papadopoulos
31'), H.Kinigopoulos
(B.Norton 70'),
J.Voulgaris, E.Soaes,
N.Curtis, M.McGough,
T.Rixon, J.Kalifatidis.
Scorers: T.Rixon 44'
pen, 53', M.McGough
50'

Yellow cards:

H.Kinigopoulos 55',
P.Savio 57', T.Rixon 63',
G.Papadopoulos 71'

Red cards: None

Hume City:

L.Acevski,
F.Dilizia, I.Erdogan,
S.Pir, A.Opazo,
R.Cardozo, A.Vlahos,
R.Thompson,
Z.Petrevski,
M.Bosevski (D.Delic
64'), P.Riccobene.
Scorers: R.Thompson
21' pen, 59' pen,
R.Cardozo 37',
A.Vlahos 87'

Yellow cards: F.Dilizia
5', R.Cardozo 43'

Red cards: None

Man of the Match:

A.Vlahos
Venue: John Cain Me-
morial Park
Crowd: 750

Vlahos seals victory as Hume claim home final

By Tony Persoglia

Hume City secured a home final in the Alanic Victorian Premier League with a thrilling 4-3 victory over a gallant Northcote City at John Cain Memorial Park. In a match that ebbed and flowed, the visitors withstood torrential rain and a determined opponent to edge out the hosts in a pulsating contest.

The match began under threatening skies, and Hume was quick to stamp its authority on the contest, controlling possession with great skill and movement. It was a set piece which almost opened the scoring on eight minutes, a free-kick from Ross Thompson zipping by the right-hand goalpost. Philip Riccobene followed suit two minutes later, this time from open play, but in truth, his shot did little to trouble Chris Petropoulos in goal.

Northcote looked certain to score against the run of play in the 12th minute with Trent Nixon put through on goal, but the striker was superbly tackled by Fabio Dilizia before he could execute his shot. The heavens opened shortly after, and this appeared to even out the contest, Rixon again proving dangerous as he cut back a superb ball across goal which only just failed to find James Kalifatidis in the six-yard box.

Hume City should have gone ahead in open play in the 20th minute, as they teased a dazzled Blues defence with some intricate passing, a foul on Andy Vlahos from Adrian Chiappetta eventually resulting in a penalty decision from referee Hakan Anaz. Thompson calmly stepped up and rifled his strike to the left of Petropoulos, Hume taking a deserved lead.

The hosts were down a key defender when Antoni Jankovski appeared to pull a hamstring while chasing back hard in defence. He was replaced in the 31st minute by the evergreen



Richaie Cardozo grabs Hume's second on the way to confirming finals football. PHOTO: PETER PSARROS

George Papadopoulos, making his last ever home appearance for the club after fifteen years. He would have been unimpressed as Andy Vlahos played a great ball through to Richard Cardozo who scored with an expert left-foot finish. The visitors appeared in control after 37 minutes with a two-goal lead, however, just before the half, Trent Rixon was fouled in the box, and the competition's leading marksmen converted the penalty with a powerful shot down the middle which cannoned in off the crossbar.

The hosts were no doubt buoyed by halving the deficit, and approached the second half with new found confidence. Rixon almost scoring the equaliser in the 48th minute with an audacious attempt that beat the keeper and unfortunately for him, the crossbar too. The Blues would eventually restore parity barely two minutes later when Mark McGough beat Lupce Acevski with a superbly controlled strike. The momentum had definitely swung by

this point, and when Rixon scored his second with a fantastic header from a superbly taken free-kick, the home team had the lead after 53 minutes, and were full of running.

But just as Northcote appeared set to dominate the contest, an inexplicable handball in the box from Paul Savio resulted in another penalty kick, which Thompson duly converted after sending Petropoulos in the wrong direction.

The remaining half-an-hour of play was exhilarating football at its best, both teams throwing caution to the wind in search of the winning goal. Nixon almost sealed his hat-trick in the 74th minute after a mazy run from John Voulgaris set him up, but his shot hit the crossbar leaving the home fans exasperated. A couple of minutes later, Northcote appeared to score from a goal-mouth scramble, but amidst all the players in the box, the ball couldn't find its way into the net.

Barely a minute later, Vlahos ap-

peared certain to clinch the three points after being put through with half the pitch at his beckoning and only the keeper to beat, but Petropoulos timed his run perfectly and shut him down to avert the danger. However, Vlahos ultimately claimed the win just three minutes from full time making no mistake with a cool finish underlying his class at this level.

As it stands, Hume City will take on Green Gully in the Qualifying final next week, but a pending Supreme Court decision may see South Melbourne confirmed as their opponent. Northcote City are scheduled to play Dandenong Thunder at the Veneto Club on Wednesday evening, where a victory would confirm their appearance in the finals at this stage. However, should the Supreme Court rule in South Melbourne's favour, then the Blues will be eliminated from finals contention regardless of the result.



Trent Rixon smashes home a penalty for Northcote City just before half-time. PHOTO: PETER PSARROS



BENTLEIGH GREENS



1

RICHMOND EAGLES



1

Match Details:

Bentleigh Greens:

P.Gavalas,
G.Stavridis, S.De Vito,
C.Anthopoulos, A.Rojas
(A.Selemidis 89'),
D.Lonvancic (K.Crnac
58'), A.Fadljevic,
J.Webster, J.Sapazovski,
L.Fitzpatrick, C.Sanita.

Goal: Fadljevic 57'

Yellow Cards: Sanita 3'

Fitzpatrick 43'

Red Cards: None

Richmond: S.Gal, A.Viola,
D.Tsiaras, J.Krncevic
(M.Lujuc 75'), D.Visevic,
M.Ferrante, A.Kovacic,
M.Bissinger (S.Wilson
46'), T.Milardovic,
S.Topalovic, D.van 't
Schip (M.Catalano 58').

Goal: Ferrante 57'

Yellow Cards: Viola 30'

Tsiaras 53' Ferrante 85'

Red Cards: None

Man of the Match: Mi-
chael Ferrante (Rich-
mond)

Venue: Kingston Heath
Soccer Complex
Crowd: 300

Eagles Clinch Minor Premiership

By Mark Boric

The final round of the 2010 AVPL home and away season saw Bentleigh Greens host Richmond.

Bentleigh needed points to secure their top flight status, though a vital point in a mid-week 1-1 draw with Northcote City meant that if both Sunshine George Cross and Altona Magic lost their final games the Greens would be safe regardless of this match. That draw, and dramatic 2-1 win over Oakleigh Cannons the previous week, had given the Greens much hope in avoiding the drop on the final day as coach Andy O'Dell prepared to take on one of his former clubs.

For the Eagles a point would be enough to claim top spot on the final table. A come from behind 4-2 defeat of Altona Magic had them entering the game in top form and poised to finish at the top of a table since winning State League Division Two South East in 2003 under O'Dell. With the recent wet weather taking its toll on the main pitch at Kingston Heath, the game was transferred to the newly laid artificial second pitch.

Davey van 't Schip sent in a cross from the left corner in the first minute which Daniel Visevic rose to head at goal, but only sent the ball into the defender who challenged with him. Andrew Viola was brought down as he charged forward over the half-way line by Chris Sanita, bringing about an early booking. In the fifth minute a free kick from Alex Rojas on the right to the far post saw Jack Webster slice a shot back across goal, the ball being partially cleared before a quick pass inside released Johnny Sapazovski on the right of the box who shot over the target.

Richmond were struggling to come to terms with the artificial pitch, and though doing well in midfield were struggling to make an impact up front. In the tenth minute Visevic sent Mitch Bissinger away down the right, and he skipped past a man before being unable to get beyond the first defender with his cross. Another free kick from Rojas on the right saw Damir Lonvancic head the ball straight to Stjepan Gal. A dangerous crossfield ball from Adam Fadljevic from the left saw the ball run just a little too wide for Lonvancic, who was quickly covered by Antun Kovacic.

Bentleigh should have taken the lead in the seventeenth minute, when Sapazovski managed to get through the middle without being offside. He broke into the box on the left to face Gal one-on-one, pushing the ball past the keeper only to see it roll into the far post, and bounce off it for a goal kick. Visevic pulled a shot wide after cutting in from



Proud captain, Dimi Tsiaras, gets his hands on the Alanic VPL Minor Premier's Cup. PHOTO: JOHN PUNSHON

the right, but it was the home side starting to gain the upper hand.

Another glorious chance went begging on the half hour mark, a free kick from the right being tipped onto the crossbar by Gal, with Lonvancic heading the rebound into a teammate standing in front of him and then the offside flag being raised as the Greens finally bundled the ball into the back of the net. Towards the end of the half Bentleigh kept the pressure on Richmond, and Fadljevic shot over the goal from twenty-two yards out from out wide on the left. At the interval the game remained locked at 0-0.

Michael Chatzitrifonos turned to his bench at the break, withdrawing Mitch Bissinger for Stuart Wilson, making his senior return after a year out with a knee injury. Dimitri Tsiaras was booked early in the second half for a foul on Rojas. In the fifty-seventh minute, Bentleigh took the lead to the delight of

the home support. George Stavridis made a strong run down the right, crossing well over the halfway line and getting in a cross when challenged by Michael Ferrante. A great ball to the far post was met and neatly finished by Fadljevic, and the Greens celebrated a great stride made in keeping themselves in the league.

The joy would prove to be short-lived, as Richmond responded with an equaliser within a minute. Stexen Topalovic made inroads down the right, before fining Wilson on his inside. Cutting across the top of the box Wilson slid the ball across to Ferrante, who from twenty-three yards out thumped home his second goal for the Eagles in three games.

Richmond then could have taken the lead in the sixty-third minute, only to be denied by a superb save from Peter Gavalas. An inside ball from Wilson to substitute Michael

Catalano saw Catalano get down the right of the penalty area and pull the ball back for Jesse Krncevic who produced the best from the Greens keeper. A free kick from Rojas saw Fitzpatrick head over goal at the far post.

After surviving a flurry of Bentleigh corners with ten minutes remaining, Richmond held possession for most of the final few minutes. By now news from other grounds had both sides happy to share the points, and as Kovacic, Viola, Topalovic and Tom Milardovic exchanged gasps at the back Bentleigh officials and supporters pleaded with referee Shaun Evans to call an early halt to proceedings. The Eagles continued to knock the ball around without any real pressure applied to them, before finally full-time arrived to signal their clinching of the minor premiership and Bentleigh maintaining their AVPL status.



The sign says it all as the players celebrate with Eagles President Helmut Kalitzki (right) leading the chorus. PHOTO: JOHN PUNSHON



OAKLEIGH CANNONS



2

ALTONA MAGIC



4

Oakleigh Cannons: Griffin MCMMASTER (Gk), Stellos DRAKOS (c), Jamie CUMMING, Bonnell OB-RADOVIC (Bill GASPARNATOS 46'), Ricky DIACO, Bill DAMIANOS, Jerry KARPEH, Michael CURCIJA (Yusuf YUSUF 64'), Aristidis DRAKOS, Neven ANTIC (Ashley SAVANAH 55'), Scott WEBSTER
Unused subs: Adrian CAGALJ, Martin MASON
Goals: Aristidis DRAKOS 27', Jerry KARPEH 51'

Altona Magic: Tomislav TOMICH (Gk), Pece SIVESKI (c), Aleksander KOLTOVSKI (James DUCEVSKI, 61'), Kole DELEV (Justin NIKOLOVSKI 82'), Dejan RADOJICIC, Mathew THEODORE, Pece CERGOVSKI, John THORNLEY, Slave BOZINOVSKI, Sime KOVACEVIC, Goran TALEVSKI
Unused subs: Jose VASQUEZ, Andrew SFETCOPOULOS, Milosh VLATKOVIC

Goals: Pece SIVESKI 2', Sime KOVACEVIC 39', Mathew THEODORE 45', John THORNLEY 58'

Relegation-bound Altona end season with a win

By Gigi Silk

Altona Magic has ended their 2010 season with a convincing win over the Oakleigh Cannons at Jack Edwards Reserve, ending Oakleigh's chance of a final's berth in 2010.

Unfortunately, the win is not enough to stop Altona Magic being relegated, joining Sunshine George Cross in State League One next year.

The loss for Oakleigh means that they will miss out on the playoffs by goal difference with South Melbourne, after they dominated the first half of the season.

Magic outplayed the Cannons, clinching their first win since round 18, 4-2.

Altona Magic came out firing for the last match of the season with a goal after only two minutes of play. After Oakleigh captain Stelios Drakos tripped Mathew Theodore one metre outside the box, Magic captain, Pece Siveski stepped up to chip the ball in and give the team an early lead.

Minutes later, Bill Damianos was fouled at the Cannons end which was followed by an excellent save by Tomich, leaving the goalkeeper with a clean sheet.

For the next ten minutes, the only thing stopping Altona getting the ball upfront was the off-side rule.

After Magic missed several corner conversions, Oakleigh was able to step-up and give their supporters something to cheer about.

In the 27th minute, Damianos crossed the ball to Aristidis Drakos who was then able to put it past Griffin McMaster and score the equaliser.

Both teams went corner-for-corner, and free-for-free until Altona Magic broke the cycle with an excellent header from sweeper, Neven Antic, giving the lead back to Altona, 2-1.

Throughout the first half, Mathew Theodore offered good support to his teammates and was finding space when looking for the cross. Kole Delev threaded the ball to Theodore who was then able to convert it, giving Magic a 3-1 lead going into the second half.



The Magic finally put some cheer into their season, but alas it was all too late as State League Division One now beckons for the 2009 VPL champs. PHOTO: ANITA MILAS

It was Oakleigh who came out firing in the second half with a header on target from Jerry Karpeh in the 51st minute.

After an excellent first half by Antic, controlling his passes upfront and strategically shutting down the Cannons' defence up the back, Ashley Savanah was brought on to replace him.

This could not stop Altona who scored again in the 58th minute. This time it was John Thornley who was able to make his way

around the Oakleigh defenders and smash it past Griffin McMaster.

The game slowed down as the half wore on, with both teams struggling to get the ball travelling over the muddy pitch.

Magic replaced Aleksander Koltovski for James Ducevski, and Oakleigh swapped Michael Curcija for Yusuf Yusuf in the 61st and 64th minutes respectively.

Although Yusuf's presence was immediately noticed with him

seeming to glide across the pitch, effortlessly directing the subversive ball, he was not able to get the goal (or three) that Oakleigh desperately needed.

That's it for both teams for this season. 2009 Champion's Altona Magic ended up on 20 points, one point above relegation partner Sunshine George Cross; and Oakleigh finished up on 30 points, just missing out on the 2010 finals.



GREEN GULLY



5

MELBOURNE KNIGHTS



0

Green Gully: N.Roganovic, D.Jones, S.Burton, J.Hayne(D.Fak), G.Hockless, M.Sanders, M.Medjedovic, A.Vargas(N.Robinson), T.Gould, B.Fisher(M.Anderson), C.Drake

Melbourne Knights: M.Hrastov, R.Fillpovic, B.Surey, L.Cannell, J.Magdic, J.Colosimo(T.Pies), K.Townson, A.Zahra, T.Skara, J.Dubois, A.Colosimo(J.Franjic)

Green Gully 5 : Graham Hockless 2, Matthew Sanders 2, Steven Burton.
Yellow Cards: Michael Anderson '80.

Melbourne Knights 0 : N/A
Yellow Cards: N/A

Man of the Match: Graham Hockless (Green Gully)

Five Goal Gully Get Double Chance

By Markian Jaworsky

A five goal blitz from the Green Gully Cavaliers secured third place for season 2010.

It was the Melbourne Knights, relieved at having just survived one of the closest relegation battles in VPL history that let down their guard against a team itching for its first finals success in five years.

Gully midfielder Graham Hockless opened the scoring after about fifteen minutes of play. Ironically, it was the Melbourne Knights who did most of the attacking early on, Knights forward Townson struck the Gully crossbar after just five minutes of play, and there were numerous other chances that the Gully defense just managed to scramble to safety. Hockless' goal was perfectly placed into the back top corner past young Knights goalkeeper Hrastov.

Matthew Sanders punished sloppy defending on two occasions prior to half time, the first came from a tackle, turn and shot, the second a header at the back post.

Just minutes into the second half, Graham Hockless scored his second and Gully's fourth, his firm shot on goal caught Hrastov off guard, and Gully's Steve Burton scored from a freekick taken quickly on the edge of the Knights penalty area.

It was a very promising return of form and return to the starting line-up for Graham Hockless, just one week out from the finals. "The coaching staff make the decisions (on the lineup), an when you are left out of the team, you just have to cop it on the chin." Stated Graham.

Another impressive inclusion in the starting eleven was defender Cameron Drake, filling in for an injured Ryan Ollerton. Cameron played his first full game since round five earlier this year.

The Cavaliers will travel to Hume next weekend for the Qualifying Final. Kick-Off Date and Time to be confirmed by the FFV.

The Green Gully Under 21's completed their season with a 2-0 victory over the Knights.



Gully's Steve Burton congratulates Matt Sanders. PHOTO: STEVE STAREK



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The scoreboard gets a work-out and says it all. PHOTO: STEVE STAREK

VPL Standings Round 20

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Richmond	22	12	4	6	33	26	40
Hume City	22	12	6	4	41	29	39
Green Gully Cavaliers	22	11	3	8	37	23	36
Heidelberg Utd	22	10	6	6	34	33	33
South Melbourne	22	10	6	6	41	28	30
Oakleigh Cannons	22	9	3	10	30	31	30
Northcote City	21	8	4	9	43	34	28
Dandenong Thunder	21	9	4	8	23	26	28
Melbourne Knights	22	7	5	10	30	37	23
Bentleigh Greens	22	5	6	11	19	36	21
Altona Magic	22	5	5	12	39	46	20
Sunshine George Cross	22	5	4	13	20	41	19

Sunshine George Cross v N.T.C.

Olympic Village
Wed 11 Aug KO 8:30PM

Dandenong Thunder v Heidelberg Utd

George Andrews Reserve
Sun 15 Aug KO 3:00PM

Green Gully Cavaliers v Melbourne Knights

Green Gully Reserve
Sun 15 Aug KO 3:00PM

Northcote City v Hume City

John Cain Memorial Park
Sun 15 Aug KO 3:00PM

VPL Round 21

Bentleigh Greens v Richmond

Kingsdon Heath Soccer Complex
Sun 15 Aug KO 3:00PM

Oakleigh Cannons v Altona Magic

Jack Edwards Reserve
Sun 15 Aug KO 3:00PM

Sunshine George Cross v South Melbourne

Knights Stadium
Sun 15 Aug KO 3:00PM

Under 21s

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PT
South Melbourne	22	19	2	1	70	26	59	
Richmond	24	14	3	7	50	31	45	
N.T.C.	23	11	8	4	66	42	41	
Green Gully Cavaliers	24	11	6	8	45	48	38	
Oakleigh Cannons	21	8	7	6	44	38	31	
Hume City	22	9	5	8	58	44	29	
Northcote City	21	7	8	6	52	47	27	
Heidelberg Utd	22	9	3	10	32	35	27	
Altona Magic	23	8	7	10	28	42	25	
Melbourne Knights	24	8	3	13	38	47	24	
Bentleigh Greens	22	7	2	13	29	47	23	
Sunshine George Cross	22	5	1	16	28	69	16	
Dandenong Thunder	18	2	4	12	21	44	10	

Dandenong Thunder v Heidelberg Utd

Green Gully Cavaliers 2
Melb Knights 0

Northcote City Hume City
Bentleigh Greens 0 Richmond 3
Oakleigh Cannons Altona Magic

Sunshine George Cross 0
South Melbourne 4

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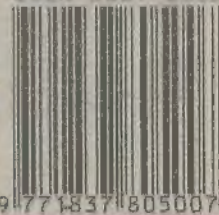
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